# DOOMSDAY CLOCK

THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

GEOFF JOHNS
GARY FRANK
BRAD ANDERSON

DOOMSDAY CLOCK

Publisher's Note: The doomsday clock is a symbol created in 1947 by the Science and Security Board of the academic journal *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, in response to the world's growing geopolitical insecurities and rising fear of nuclear war. The time on the clock—the proximity to midnight—indicates the view of the Science and Security Board regarding the likelihood of a global catastrophe. Initially, the clock was set to 11:53 p.m., but in 1953, with both the U.S. and the Soviet Union testing thermonuclear devices, the clock reached 11:58 p.m., its most ominous reading since its inception. By 1968, the situation had improved with the signing of the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I) by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and the clock eased back to 11:48. However, the two countries' jockeying for power and the apparent failure of a second round of SALT negotiations in 1984 pushed the clock forward to three minutes before midnight, where it remained for the duration of *Watchmen*'s initial publication. In 1991 the clock was set at 11:43 p.m., the farthest from midnight that it had ever reached up to that point, in recognition of the signing of the SALT II accords by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. In 2007, however, the Science and Security Board decided that the clock should also reflect the risk of climate change and life science technological issues. The clock returned to three minutes to midnight in January 2015 due to "[un]checked climate change, global nuclear weapons modernizations, and outsized nuclear weapons arsenals." The doomsday clock moved to two and a half minutes until midnight in 2017, and to two minutes until midnight in 2018, and most recently to one hundred seconds to midnight in 2020.

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# DOOMSDAY CLOCK

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*Watchmen* created by
Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons.

Superman created by
Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.
By special arrangement
with the Jerry Siegel family.

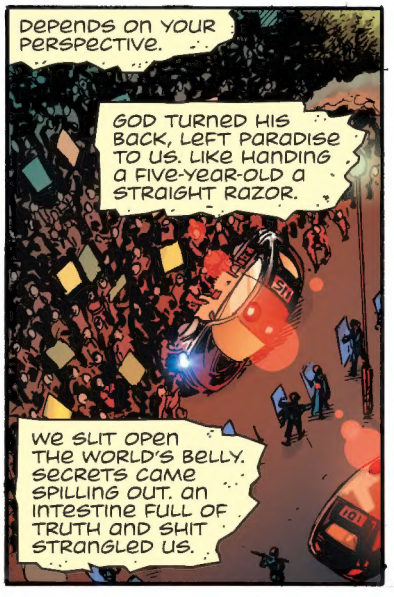
THE
END
IS
HERE

NOVEMBER 22ND, 1992.
OR MAYBE IT'S THE 23RD...
THE END IS HERE

STREETS WERE LITTERED WITH BODIES, BRAINS BOILED OVER BY GROTESQUE NIGHTMARES OF FICTIONAL INVADER. CLOCK STARTED OVER. WE HAD A CHANCE.
THE END IS HERE
BUT THEY BLEW IT.
ALL OF THEM.

THE UNDEPLORABLES SCREAM TO HEAR THEMSELVES, DEAFENED IN THEIR ECHO CHAMBER, BLAMING THE OTHER SIDE FOR WHAT THEY HAVE INSTEAD OF WHO THEY ARE.
America Safe Again!!!
THE END IS HERE
THEIR TOLERANCE IS A ONE-WAY STREET.

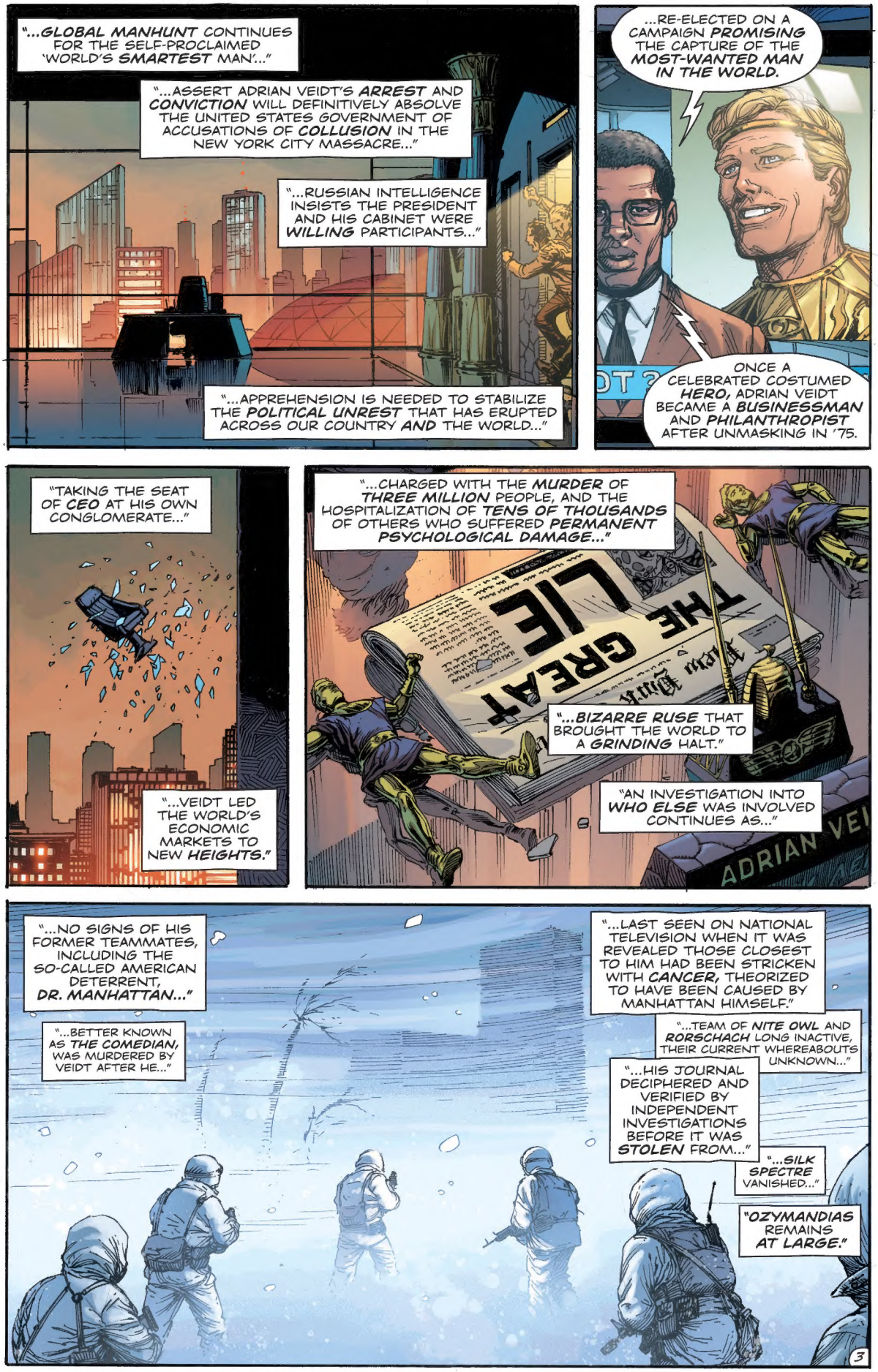
WHILE THE TOTALITARIANS STAND THEIR GROUND, COVERING THEIR EYES, PREACHING FOR A RETURN TO A ROSE-COLORED REPUBLIC.
UNAWARE THAT FOR THOSE NOT LIKE THEM, THE GOOD OLD DAYS WEREN'T SO GOOD.


DEPENDS ON YOUR PERSPECTIVE.
GOD TURNED HIS BACK, LEFT PARADISE TO US. LIKE HANDING A FIVE-YEAR-OLD A STRAIGHT RAZOR.
WE SLIT OPEN THE WORLD'S BELLY. SECRETS CAME SPILLING OUT. AN INTESTINE FULL OF TRUTH AND SHIT STRANGLED US.

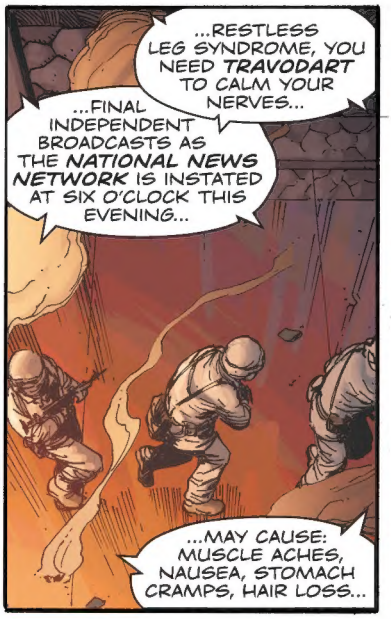
SOON THE BUGS WILL BE ALL THAT'S LEFT. AND THE COCKROACHES WILL GO TO WAR WITH THE MAGGOTS, FIGHTING OVER THE SCRAPS OF THE MODERATES.
THEN THEY'LL EAT THEMSELVES AND FINALLY CHOKE.

UNLESS WE BRING GOD BACK DOWN.
KICKING AND SCREAMING. BECAUSE MAYBE WE DON'T DESERVE IT.
POLICE
MAYBE THE WORLD SHOULD BURN THIS TIME.

we shattered the american dream.
this is the american nightmare.
AUTHORITIES HAVE CONFIRMED THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS SHOT AND KILLED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.
AS THE STANDOFF ENTERS ITS FIFTH HOUR, SEVENTEEN HOSTAGES REMAIN, INCLUDING THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER...
HOSTAGE
THE END IS NIGH
"THE PRESIDENT SCORED A HOLE IN ONE EARLIER TODAY, BEATING HIS PREVIOUS RECORD..."
LESS THAN TWO WEEKS INTO THE COLLAPSE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, RUSSIA HAS AMASSED ITS MILITARY IN BELARUS, AND IS THREATENING TO ENTER POLAND...
"WORLD LEADERS HAVE PROCLAIMED THEY WILL NOT STAND BY IF BLOOD IS SHED..."
"...NORTH KOREA NOW CAPABLE OF REACHING AS FAR INLAND AS TEXAS."
"HUNDREDS HAVE BROKEN THROUGH THE WALL AND FLOODED INTO MEXICO. THOUSANDS MORE ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW..."
1:07
WE ARE STILL WAITING ON A STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT.
9
2

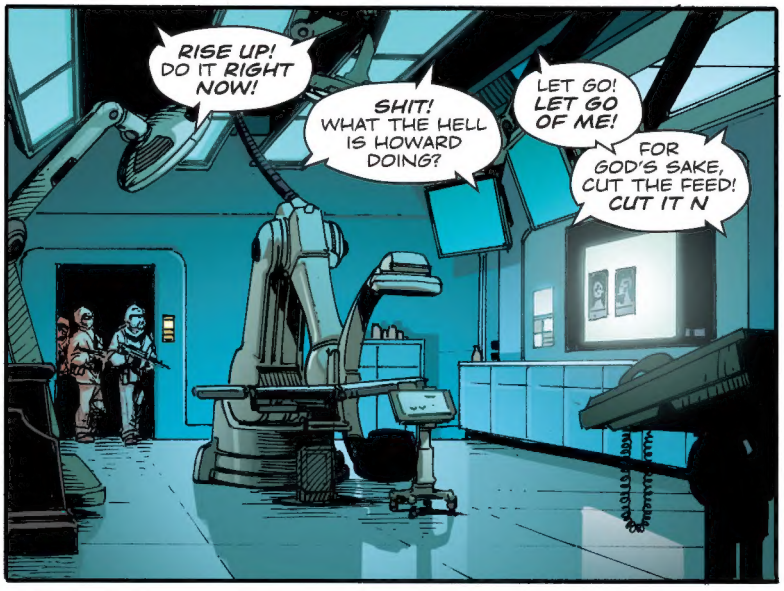

"...GLOBAL MANHUNT CONTINUES FOR THE SELF-PROCLAIMED 'WORLD'S SMARTEST MAN'..."
"...ASSERT ADRIAN VEIDT'S ARREST AND CONVICTION WILL DEFINITIVELY ABSOLVE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF ACCUSATIONS OF COLLUSION IN THE NEW YORK CITY MASSACRE..."
"...RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE INSISTS THE PRESIDENT AND HIS CABINET WERE WILLING PARTICIPANTS..."
"...APPREHENSION IS NEEDED TO STABILIZE THE POLITICAL UNREST THAT HAS ERUPTED ACROSS OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD..."
...RE-ELECTED ON A CAMPAIGN PROMISING THE CAPTURE OF THE MOST-WANTED MAN IN THE WORLD.
ONCE A CELEBRATED COSTUMED HERO, ADRIAN VEIDT BECAME A BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST AFTER UNMASKING IN '75.
"TAKING THE SEAT OF CEO AT HIS OWN CONGLOMERATE..."
"...VEIDT LED THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC MARKETS TO NEW HEIGHTS."
"...CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF THREE MILLION PEOPLE, AND THE HOSPITALIZATION OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS WHO SUFFERED PERMANENT PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE..."
THE GREAT LIE
"...BIZARRE RUSE THAT BROUGHT THE WORLD TO A GRINDING HALT."
"AN INVESTIGATION INTO WHO ELSE WAS INVOLVED CONTINUES AS..."
ADRIAN VEI
"...NO SIGNS OF HIS FORMER TEAMMATES, INCLUDING THE SO-CALLED AMERICAN DETERRENT, DR. MANHATTAN..."
"...BETTER KNOWN AS THE COMEDIAN, WAS MURDERED BY VEIDT AFTER HE..."
"...LAST SEEN ON NATIONAL TELEVISION WHEN IT WAS REVEALED THOSE CLOSEST TO HIM HAD BEEN STRICKEN WITH CANCER, THEORIZED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY MANHATTAN HIMSELF."
"...TEAM OF NITE OWL AND RORSCHACH LONG INACTIVE, THEIR CURRENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN..."
"...HIS JOURNAL DECIPHERED AND VERIFIED BY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS BEFORE IT WAS STOLEN FROM..."
"...SILK SPECTRE VANISHED..."
"OZYMANDIAS REMAINS AT LARGE."
3

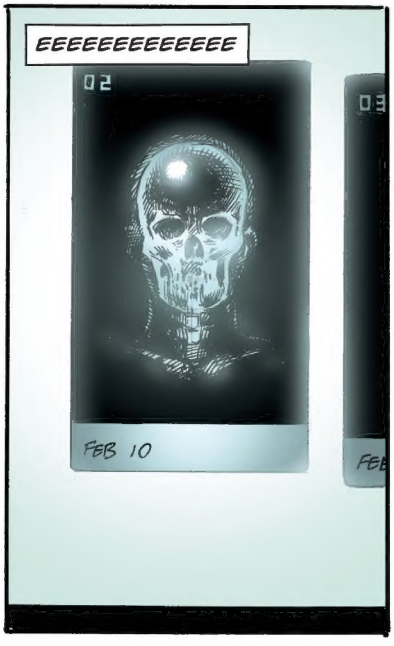
"THE NEW YORK GAZETTE WAS THE FIRST TO BE FORCIBLY SHUT DOWN AFTER THE INFAMOUS FRONT PAGE THAT EXPLODED ACROSS THE WORLD..."


...RESTLESS LEG SYNDROME, YOU NEED TRAVODART TO CALM YOUR NERVES...
...FINAL INDEPENDENT BROADCASTS AS THE NATIONAL NEWS NETWORK IS INSTATED AT SIX O'CLOCK THIS EVENING...
...MAY CAUSE: MUSCLE ACHES, NAUSEA, STOMACH CRAMPS, HAIR LOSS...

AN HONOR TO DELIVER THE NEWS TO YOU FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS
FIFTY-TWO YEARS
FORTY-ONE
THIS IS BBC
IS CNN
UBS EVENING NEWS SIGNING OFF
FF AND WISHING YOU
THIS IS A TRAGIC DAY IN AMERICAN HISTORY!

REFUSE TO BE SILENCED!


RISE UP! DO IT RIGHT NOW!
SHIT! WHAT THE HELL IS HOWARD DOING?
LET GO! LET GO OF ME!
FOR GOD'S SAKE, CUT THE FEED! CUT IT N


EEEEEEEEEEEEE
02
FEB 10

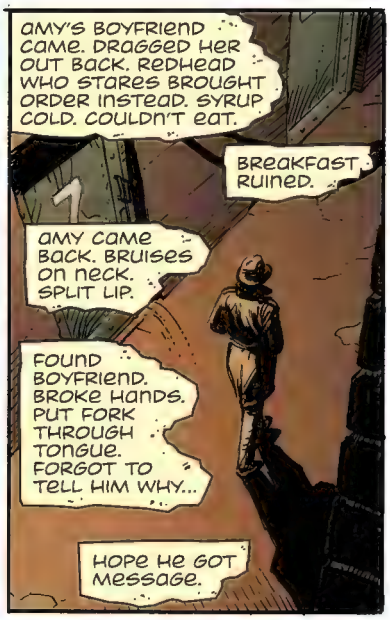
EEEEEEEEEEEEE

EEEE
GOOD EVENING.
4

AND WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL NEWS NETWORK.
I'M WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR., SPEAKING TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
I'M SORRY TO REPORT THAT RUSSIA HAS INVADED POLAND.
THE EVILS OF THIS WORLD HAVE FORCED OUR HAND.
THE EVILS OF THIS WORLD HAVE FORCED OUR HAND.
"IF THE RUSSIAN MILITARY DOES NOT WITHDRAW WITHIN FOUR HOURS, THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LAUNCH THE FULL FORCE OF OUR MILITARY MIGHT.
"THEREFORE, A MANDATORY EVACUATION HAS BEEN ISSUED ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
LET US OUT!
"WE URGE YOU TO GATHER YOUR FAMILY AND MAKE YOUR WAY CLEAR OF THE DESIGNATED RED ZONES."
"IF THE EMERGENCY NUMBER ON YOUR SCREEN IS BUSY...
"...CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POLICE."
GIMME THE GODDAMN KEYS!
OH SHIT...
5

# THAT ANNIHILATED PLACE

HIGH SECURITY
LAST DAY ON EARTH. WENT TO MORNING JOE'S FOR PANCAKES. BEST IN CITY. SAT IN AMY'S SECTION. DOESN'T STARE. BRINGS SYRUP HOT.


AMY'S BOYFRIEND CAME. DRAGGED HER OUT BACK. REDHEAD WHO STARES BROUGHT ORDER INSTEAD. SYRUP COLD. COULDN'T EAT.
BREAKFAST RUINED.
AMY CAME BACK. BRUISES ON NECK. SPLIT LIP.
FOUND BOYFRIEND. BROKE HANDS. PUT FORK THROUGH TONGUE. FORGOT TO TELL HIM WHY...
HOPE HE GOT MESSAGE.

WENT BACK TO JOE'S. STOP SERVING BREAKFAST AT ELEVEN.
WAS QUARTER PAST.

NEVER BEEN LUCKY.
WAS IT THIRTEEN?

NN...

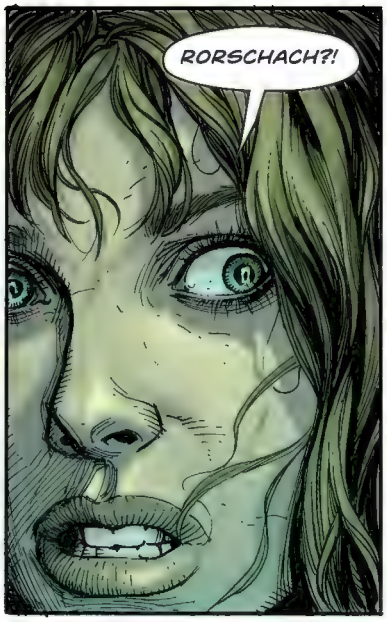
NO.
THIRTY-ONE...

TOO MUCH TO DO.
TOO MUCH TO REMEMBER.
NEVER WRITE ANYTHING DOWN...
FAR TOO DANGEROUS.

LIKE HER...

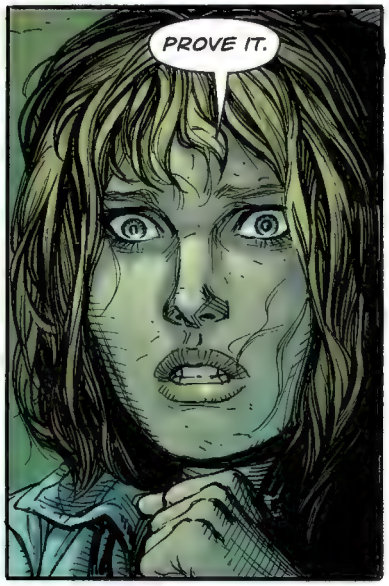
CHRIST, OMAHA, IS THIS FOR REAL?
SAS CODE DELTA-CHARLIE-ZULU-FOUR-THREE-THREE-ZERO HAS BEEN VERIFIED.
SHIT... VOTE ONE IS LOGGED.
CELL UNLOCKS. ECHOES DOWN HALLWAY.
HEAR THEM BEHIND DOORS.
VOTE TWO IS LOGGED.
HEAR THEM ALL.
VOTE THREE IS LOGGED.
VOTE FOUR IS LOGGED.
SCREAMING TO GET OUT.
READY TO LAUNCH
LAUNCH
GO
VOTE FIVE IS LOGGED.
GOD FORGIVE US...
"MR. PRESIDENT? VEIDT'S GLOBAL DATA EXCHANGE PROGRAM FROM '89 HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY EXPOSED."
"OUR ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION WE SHARED WITH THE RUSSKIES SUGGESTS THEY COULD WIPE OUT OUR ENTIRE INFRASTRUCTURE BEFORE WE COULD FIRE OFF A FART."
"THE COUNTDOWN'S BEGUN, MR. PRESIDENT."
BUT BEHIND HER DOOR.
"WE'RE WAITING ON YOUR WORD."
SILENCE.

ERIKA MANSON?
THE MARIONETTE?

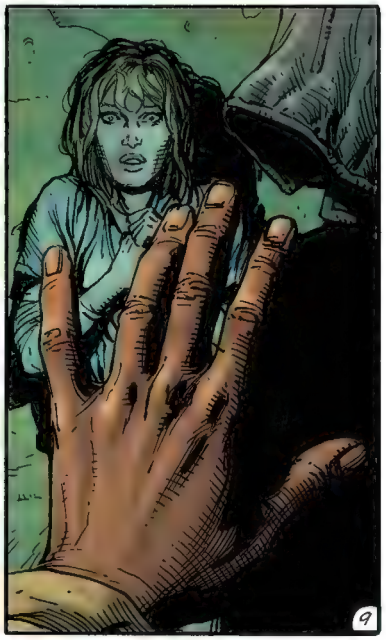

RORSCHACH?!

HAVE THREE HOURS, THIRTY-SIX MINUTES BEFORE PRISON BECOMES ASH.
MAYBE LESS. WATCH RUNS SLOW. MEANT TO FIX...

IT CAN'T BE...
DON'T WANT FLESH BURNED OFF BONES, COME WITH ME.
COME WITH YOU?
YOU SAID YOU'D THROW ME DOWN AN ELEVATOR SHAFT THE NEXT TIME WE MET.
HA HA. FUNNY.
BUT WASN'T ME. NOT SAME GUY. DIFFERENT.
DIFFERENT?
MMHM...


PROVE IT.

PROVE IT. TIRED OF PROVING...
MM.



YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR GODDAMN MIND DRESSING LIKE THAT.
RORSCHACH FINDS YOU...
I AM RORSCHACH.
WHERE'D I PUT IT...

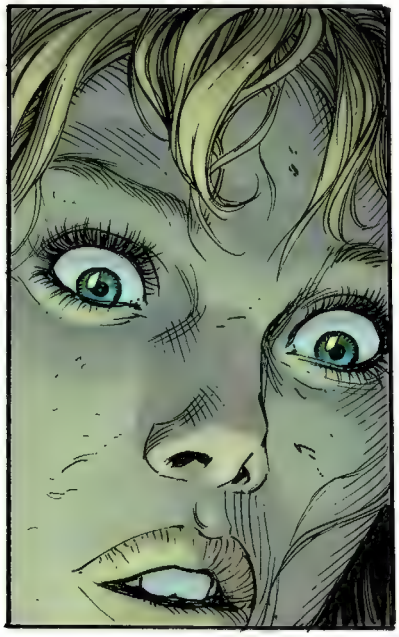
HERE. PAYMENT.
FOR WHAT?
JOB.

IT'S STICKY.

SYRUP...
ROUGH MORNING.

HUH. YOU DO SOUND A LITTLE LIKE HIM FROM WHAT I REMEMBER...
SO WHERE'S THE REAL RORSCHACH? HE DEAD?

THEY SAY HE KILLED HIMSELF. THAT RIGHT?



PICTURE'S A LITTLE OLD...

BUT YOU COME WITH ME. DO JOB.
FIND OUT WHERE BOY IS.
DEAL?

AAAA!
WHERE'S MY SON?
DON'T YELL. DON'T KNOW. PARTNER DOES. DO WHAT HE ASKS.
DO WHAT? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
FIND GOD. SAVE WORLD. WILL EXPLAIN.
FIND "GOD"?
WILL EXPLAIN, BUT...
NEED TO HURRY. THREE HOURS, THIRTY-FOUR MINUTES. PROBABLY LESS. DEFINITELY LESS. WATCH RUNS SLOW. THOUGHT I MENTIONED...
DO JOB. THEN SEE YOUR SON.
IF YOU... IF YOU'RE LYING ABOUT HIM, GODDAMNIT, I'LL TEAR YOUR BALLS OFF.
SO YOU'RE COMING?
NOT WITHOUT MY HUSBAND.
HUSBAND? NO. BAD MAN. NOT PART OF DEAL.
IT'S THE BOTH OF US... OR YOU CAN SHOVE YOUR DEAL UP YOUR ASS.
RATHER NOT...
NEED TO GO. WORLD DYING.
TO HELL WITH THE WORLD.
OUR BEAUTIFUL BOY...
MOMMY AND DADDY MISS YOU SO MUCH.
GOOD...TO HAVE FAMILY...
MARCOS MAEZ. THE MIME.
WHERE IS HE?
11

KKKFF!
GET HIS KEYS, BILLY!
I WANT MORE THAN KEYS.

OPEN THE CELLS.
WE ALL GET A TURN WITH THE PIG BEFORE THIS PLACE GOES GONE.

WAIT! I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY OUT!
THE WAY OUT?
ALL DOORS OPE

THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO.
C'MERE...
NUH-NO. PUH-PLEASE...

EEYIIIAAA!

HEY, BILLY!
THE MUTE'S GIVING YOU THE EVIL EYE.

WUH...WHAT ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT?

YOU GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY?

YOU KNOW MIME NEVER SAYS NOTHIN'.
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY.
SO SAY IT. COME ON. SPEAK, FREAK.
HE CAN'T! NEVER MAKES A SOUND.
HE'LL MAKE A SOUND.
HOLD HIM.
BABY!
SHIT. YOU SEE THAT? THAT'S NOT HIM, IS IT?
COME ON! WE'RE LEAVING!
13

I KNOW YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PERFORMANCE, BUT WE GOTTA GO!
PERFORMANCE...
HE LIKES TO PLAY THE UNDERDOG THEN BA-BA-BUM, THE BIG DRAMATIC TURN...
KK
"NO TIME FOR GAMES..."
MY EYES! MY--
"HUSH.
"HE DOESN'T LIKE PEOPLE TALKING DURING HIS ACT."

OH, BABY. GOD, I MISSED YOU...

REUNIONS LATER. CAUSE TROUBLE AND I TAKE AN EYE...

CHECK THIS OUT. THIS AIN'T EVEN THE REAL RORSCHACH!
I AM RORSCHACH...

TAKE OFF YOUR GLOVE AGAIN.
NO...

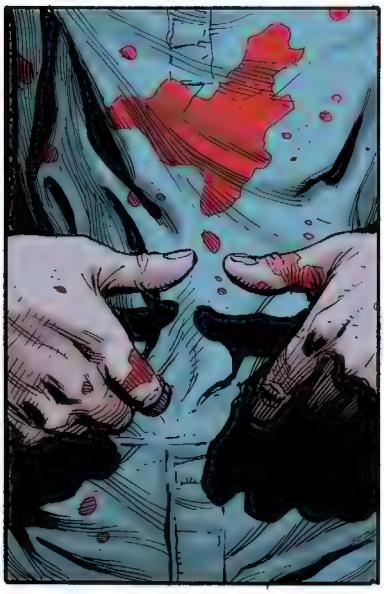
AND DON'T TOUCH HAT. TOUCH AGAIN AND...
HE WANTS US FOR A JOB.
YES. NEED TO LEAVE. RIGHT NOW.

WHAT'S THAT? PERFORMING AGAIN?
HE'S MISSING HIS WEAPONS. THEY'RE IN LOCKUP.
WE'LL GET HIM NEW ONES.
THEY'RE VERY SPECIAL WEAPONS.

NOT MUCH TIME LEFT. THREE HOURS AND...
...NO IDEA, REALLY...

HE'S NOT LEAVING WITHOUT THEM. I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT HIM.
HH...
YOUR WEAPONS. WHERE ARE THEY?

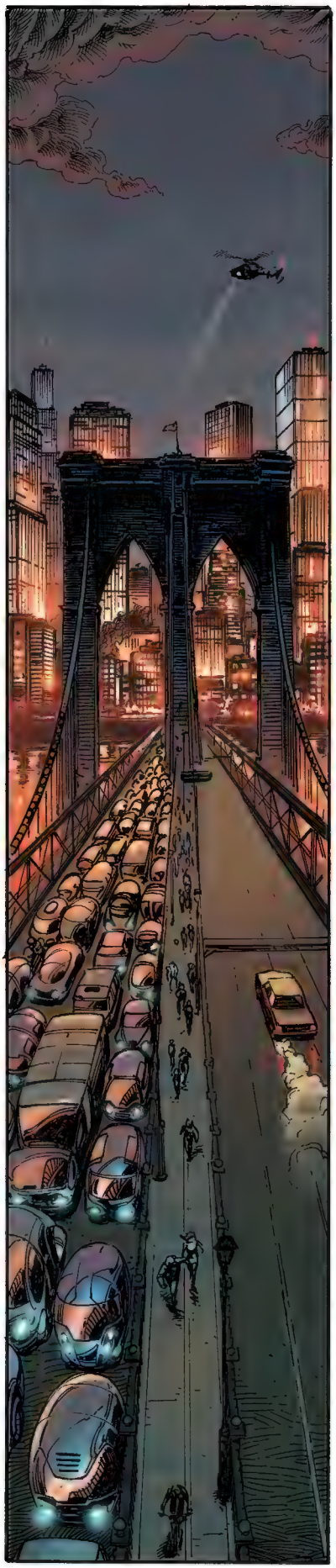
MUST HAVE CLEANED YOU OUT. NEED TO GO...
2F
2G
3F
3G
3C



TT.
2D
2F
2G
3E
3D
3F
3G

YOU HAVE BIG PROBLEMS.

PLEASE BOARD THE NEAREST PRISON BUS!
INDIVIDUAL VEHICLES WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED FOR EXIT!
DANGER!
WHEN DO WE GET TO SEE OUR SON?
WHEN JOB IS DONE.
HOW LONG'S THIS JOB GOING TO TAKE?
DON'T KNOW.
WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?
NO MORE QUESTIONS. DON'T LIKE YOU.
IS THAT A GAS GUZZLER?
HHH...
IS IT YOURS?
DON'T TRUST ELECTRIC.
MY GRANDPA HAD ONE. SAME COLOR TOO. SHIT BROWN.
COLOR... IRRELEVANT...
JESUS CHRIST!
IT SMELLS LIKE SHIT BROWN! WHAT, DO YOU LIVE IN HERE?
YES...
AND I CAN'T SMELL THROUGH MASK.
WELL, YOU'RE ABOUT TO DRIVE. CAN YOU SEE THROUGH IT?
BORSCHT
PERFECTLY.
PRISON AREA
DO NOT PICK
HITCHHIKE



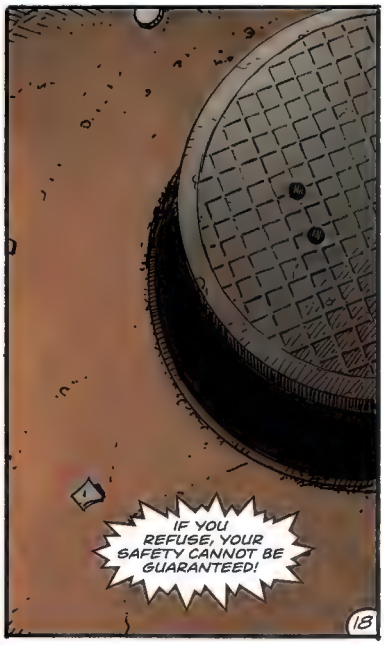
Gunga D

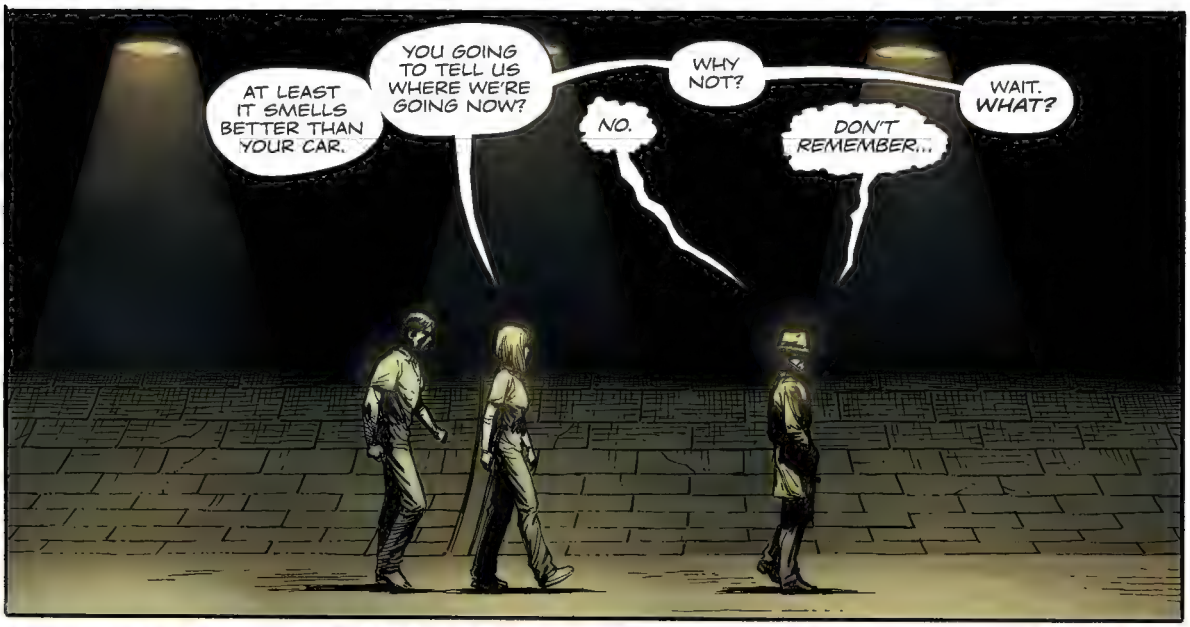
WE ARE PICKING MY MOTHER UP!
SHE'S WAY OUT IN QUEENS...
AND SHE'S IN HYSTERICS!
I TOLD HER NOT TO VOTE FOR REDFORD.

THIS IS A MANDATORY EVACUATION!

DO NOT RETURN TO YOUR HOMES!

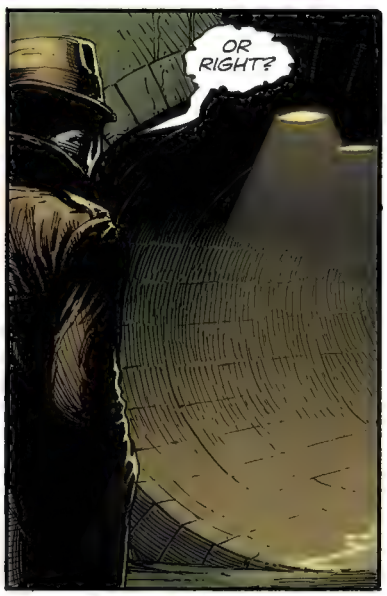
LEAVE BEHIND NON-ESSENTIAL POSSESSIONS!


IF YOU REFUSE, YOUR SAFETY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED!


AT LEAST IT SMELLS BETTER THAN YOUR CAR.
YOU GOING TO TELL US WHERE WE'RE GOING NOW?
NO.
WHY NOT?
DON'T REMEMBER...
WAIT. WHAT?

DON'T REMEMBER...

WAS IT LEFT?


OR RIGHT?

DON'T POINT IMAGINARY GUNS AT ME.

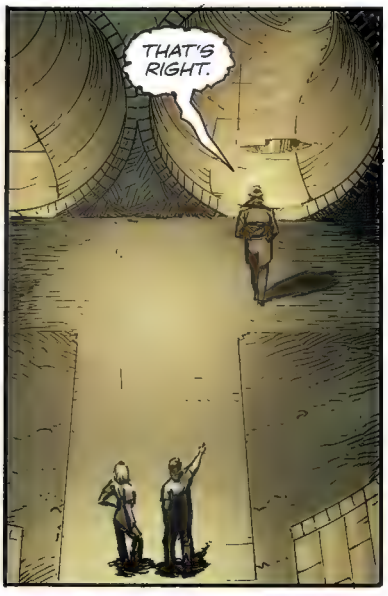
WASN'T FUNNY THE FIRST TIME.

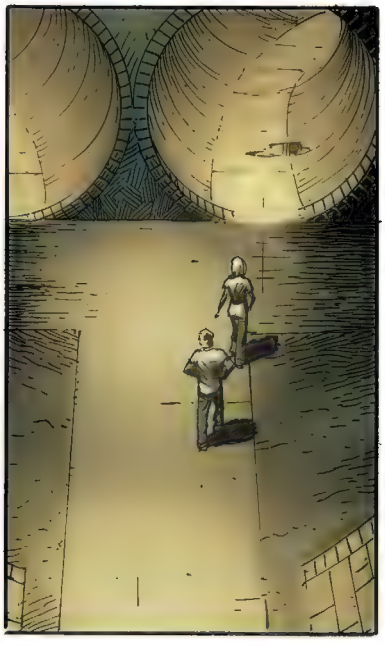
LET ME TELL YOU HOW THIS IS GOING TO **GO**, "RORSCHACH."

YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE US TO YOUR **PARTNER**. HE'S GOING TO TELL US WHERE OUR **SON** IS. OR WE'RE GOING TO PULL YOUR **TONGUES** OUT OF YOUR **MOUTHS**.

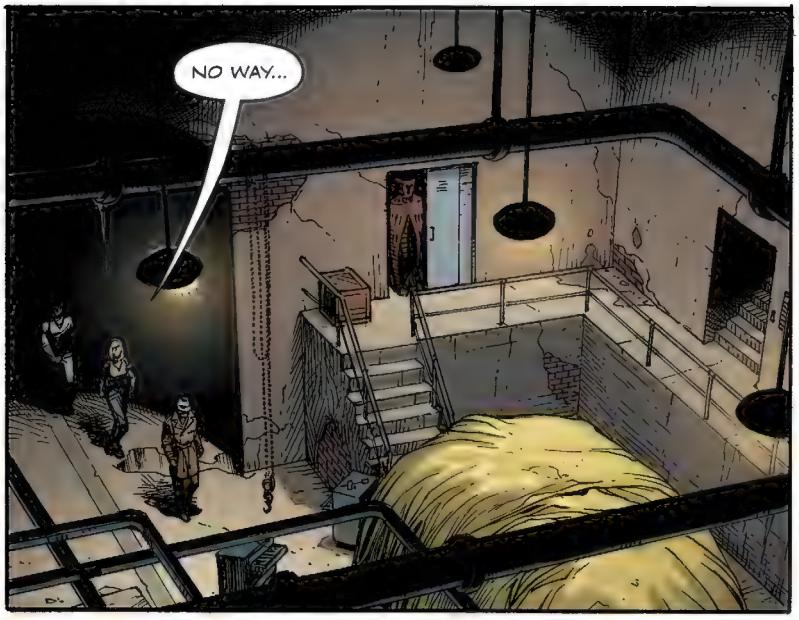
THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HUSBAND? SOMEONE TAKE A PAIR OF PLIERS AND REACH IN?
**HE** DID. SO NO MORE GAMES.
ALRIGHT?
ALRIGHT...

RIGHT.


THAT'S RIGHT.



DAN GER
FLOOD DOOR
GOING THIS WAY...
WHERE?
INTO THE LIGHT.
21


NO WAY...

YOU KNOW WHERE WE *ARE*, BABY?
LOOK AT ALL THIS SHIT!

THAT'S THE *OWLSHIP!*
ARCHIE...
THIS IS NITE OWL'S PAD, RIGHT?
WHERE *IS* HE?

OR ARE THE RUMORS TRUE?

WHAT RUMORS NOW?
THAT RORSCHACH KILLED NITE OWL AND THE SILK SPECTRE BEFORE HE OFFED HIMSELF. HE WENT TOTALLY NUTS. IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?
FALSE...
PUT SCREWDRIVER DOWN...

SO HE'S ALIVE...
YOU'RE PARTNERED UP WITH NITE OWL!

NO.
HE'S NOT.

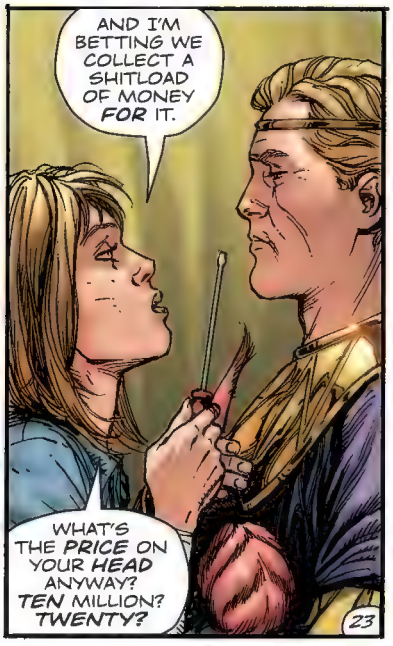
I HOPED TO LURE NITE OWL BACK, BUT HE'S RETIRED.
RORSCHACH'S WORKING FOR ME.
RREOW!

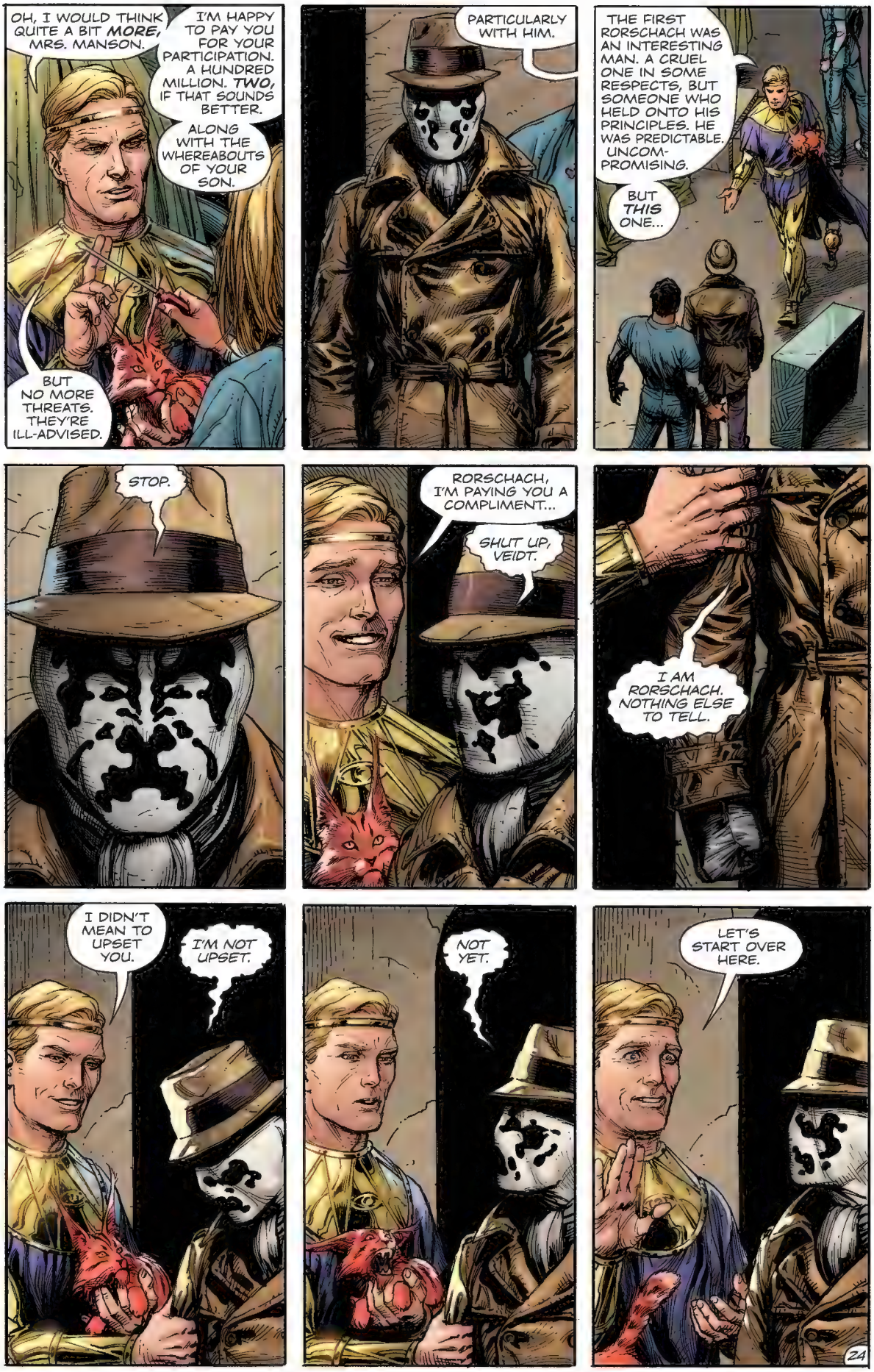
WITH YOU... NEVER FOR...
OZYMANDIAS?
HELLO AND WELCOME. I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT YOUR HUSBAND ALONG.
DISAPPOINTING, BUT EXPECTED. I DOUBTED RORSCHACH COULD PERSUADE YOU OTHERWISE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT WITH *US*...
I ONLY NEED *YOU*, TRUTHFULLY.
*ME* THEN...

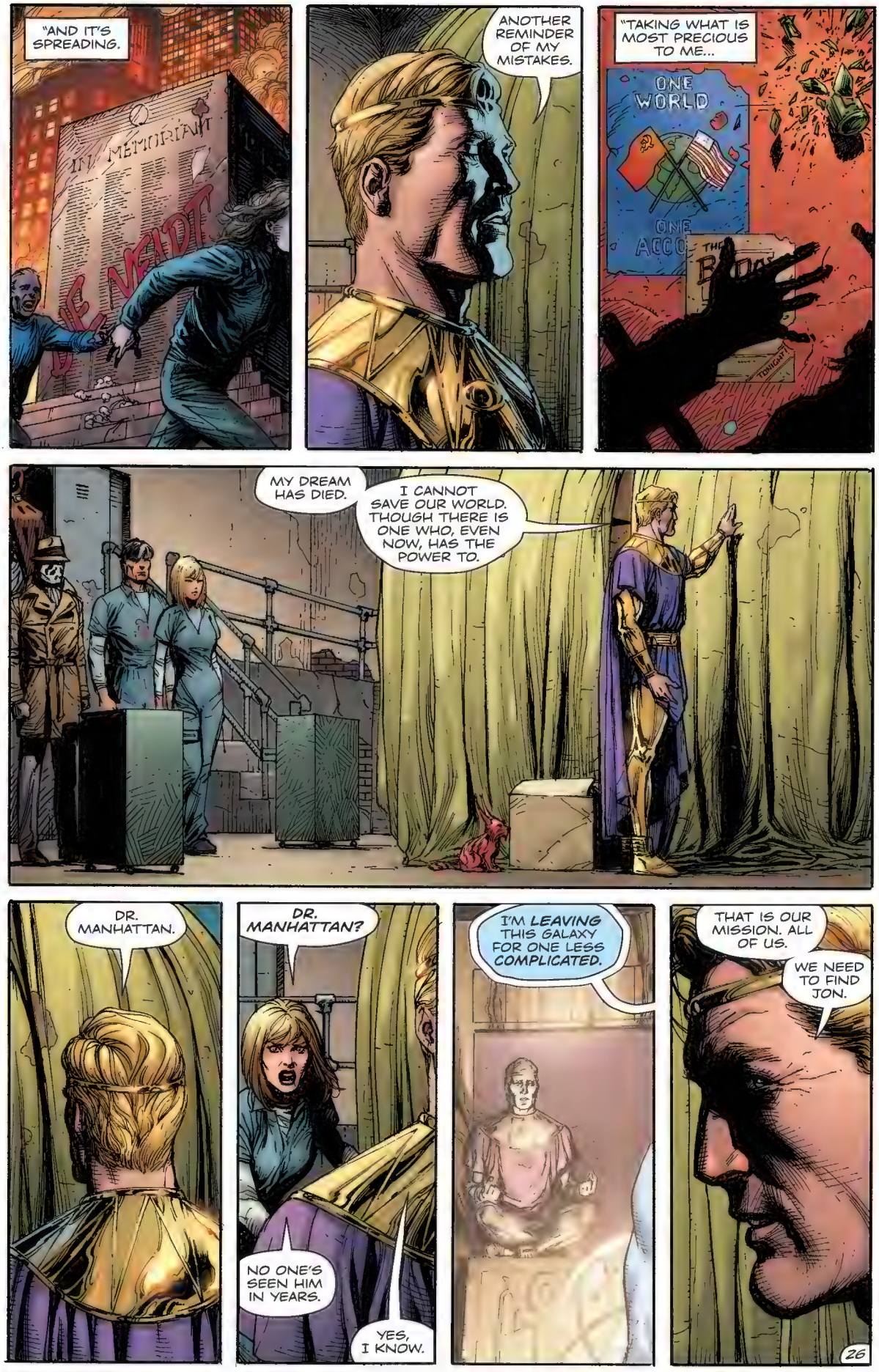
BUT IF YOU KNOW WHERE OUR SON IS, YOU'LL TELL US. RIGHT NOW.

OR WE KILL YOU AND THIS *PRETENDER*.


AND I'M BETTING WE COLLECT A SHITLOAD OF MONEY *FOR* IT.
WHAT'S THE *PRICE* ON YOUR *HEAD* ANYWAY? *TEN* MILLION? *TWENTY*?


OH, I WOULD THINK QUITE A BIT MORE, MRS. MANSON.
I'M HAPPY TO PAY YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION. A HUNDRED MILLION. TWO, IF THAT SOUNDS BETTER.
ALONG WITH THE WHEREABOUTS OF YOUR SON.
BUT NO MORE THREATS. THEY'RE ILL-ADVISED.
PARTICULARLY WITH HIM.
THE FIRST RORSCHACH WAS AN INTERESTING MAN. A CRUEL ONE IN SOME RESPECTS, BUT SOMEONE WHO HELD ONTO HIS PRINCIPLES. HE WAS PREDICTABLE. UNCOM-PROMISING.
BUT THIS ONE...
STOP.
RORSCHACH, I'M PAYING YOU A COMPLIMENT...
SHUT UP, VEIDT.
I AM RORSCHACH. NOTHING ELSE TO TELL.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU.
I'M NOT UPSET.
NOT YET.
LET'S START OVER HERE.
24

AND THEY SAY WE'RE THE ONES WHO BELONG IN PRISON...
LOOK, WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US? WHAT'S THIS BULLSHIT ABOUT FINDING "GOD"?
"FINDING GOD." THAT'S WHAT RORSCHACH CALLS IT.
I ASSUME YOU'RE AWARE OF WHAT I DID...
EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT YOU DID.
IT TOOK A LIFETIME TO CONCEIVE AND ORCHESTRATE. FOR A MOMENT... THERE WAS HOPE.
"BUT EVEN THE GREATEST OF EMPIRES DECAYS.
THE VERY NAME I TOOK IS A TESTAMENT TO THAT.
"THERE IS NO ESCAPING THE IRONY. I FOUND MYSELF LAUGHING UNCONTROLLABLY WHEN I FIRST REALIZED...
LAUGHING UNTIL IT HURRRNGG.
...AS THE CLOCK HITS THE TWO-HOUR MARK, I AM SAD TO REPORT THAT FORCES IN POLAND CONTINUE TO ADVANCE DESPITE WHAT ANY FOREIGN PRESS MAY CLAIM...
"DO NOT BELIEVE THEIR LIES."
NNG.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
HE'S AN ASSHOLE.
YES.
I ALSO HAVE CANCER.
25


"AND IT'S SPREADING.
IN MEMORIAM
ANOTHER REMINDER OF MY MISTAKES.
"TAKING WHAT IS MOST PRECIOUS TO ME...
ONE WORLD
MY DREAM HAS DIED.
I CANNOT SAVE OUR WORLD. THOUGH THERE IS ONE WHO, EVEN NOW, HAS THE POWER TO.
DR. MANHATTAN.
DR. MANHATTAN?
NO ONE'S SEEN HIM IN YEARS.
YES, I KNOW.
I'M LEAVING THIS GALAXY FOR ONE LESS COMPLICATED.
THAT IS OUR MISSION. ALL OF US.
WE NEED TO FIND JON.
26

"WHEREVER HE'S RETREATED TO."
WAL-
DEN
TWO
"THEY'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE YOU, CLARK."

Senior F
CLASS OF
IF THEY DID, A LOT OF 'EM WOULD BE AFRAID.
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE MAKING ME GO TONIGHT? TO PRETEND I'M LIKE EVERYONE ELSE? EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE ELSE THINKS I'M A LOSER?
NO ONE THINKS THAT, CLARK. NO ONE WHO MATTERS. WHERE'S LANA?
PETE TOOK LANA TONIGHT.
I TOLD YOU TO ASK HER, SON.
WELL, I'M SURE LANA'S SAVING YOU A DANCE.
WEARING THIS FEELS WRONG.
YOU LOOK HANDSOME.
ONE DAY YOU'LL LET THE WHOLE WORLD IN ON YOUR SECRET, CLARK.
AND LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, SON, I CANNOT WAIT FOR THAT DAY. I REALLY CAN'T.
BUT I WOULDN'T BE YOUR FATHER IF I DIDN'T TELL YOU IT ALSO SCARES THE BEJESUS OUT OF YOUR MOTHER AND ME.
IT'S NOT YOU, CLARK, IT'S THE WORLD.
I'M GOING TO GO SEE LANA ABOUT THAT DANCE...
THANKS FOR THE RIDE.
I WORRY ABOUT HIM, JONATHAN.
"DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH, MARTHA.
"HE'S NEVER GOTTEN SO MUCH AS A PAPER CUT.
"HE CAN'T BE HURT."
28

BUT CLARK'S ALONE.
HE HAS YOU AND ME.
WE WON'T BE AROUND FOREVER.
I WISH WE COULD'VE GIVEN HIM MORE. A BROTHER OR A SISTER.
ME, TOO, MARTHA.
BUT THIS IS GOD'S PLAN...
JONATHAN?
JONATHAN!
"CLARK?!"

CLARK?!
LOIS?
CLARK, MY GOD...
YOU WERE YELLING. THE ROOM WAS SHAKING. WHAT HAPPENED?!
IT WAS A DREAM. I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND...
PLEASE, COME DOWN.
I HEARD THEIR TIRES SCREECH. MA SCREAM. PA GRIT HIS TEETH.
WHAT?
IT WAS THE NIGHT MY PARENTS DIED, LOIS. IT WAS HORRIBLE.
OH, CLARK...
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A NIGHTMARE...
LOIS...
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HAD ONE.
He meets some fragment huge,
and stops to guess
What powerful but
unrecorded race
Once dwelt in that
annihilated place.
— Ozymandias
Horace Smith
30

"The Only News That Matters!"

New York Gazette

Late Edition

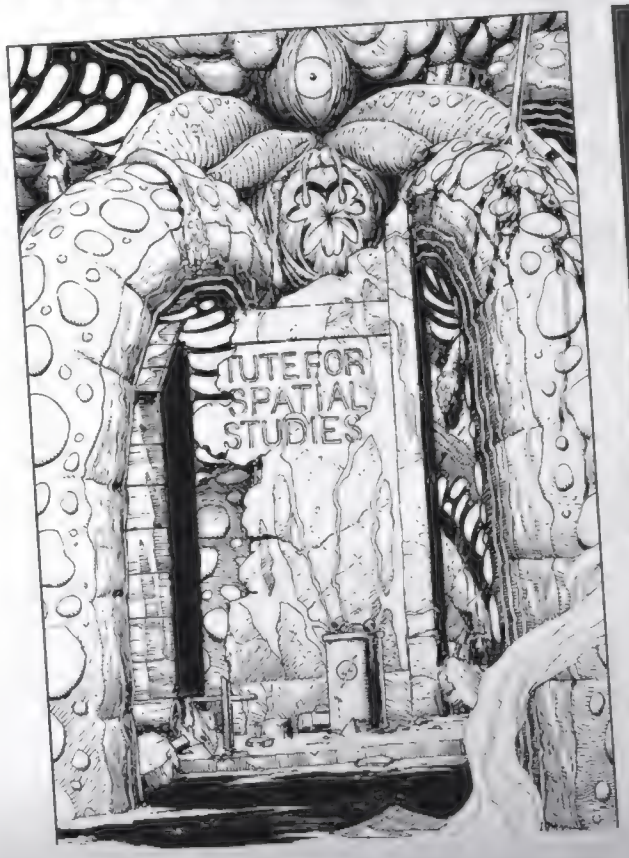
New York: **Today**, overcast. High 52. **Tonight**, thunderstorms possible. Low 38. **Tomorrow**, limited sun, scattered thunderstorms. High 50. **Yesterday**, high 75, low 55. Details, page B10.

50 CENTS

VOL. CXII...NO. 49,113

NOVEMBER 2, 1992

# THE GREAT LIE




**WARNING: The images within this special edition of *The New York Gazette* are not suitable for children.**

*Left: Adrian Veidt's "Invader."*

Photograph by JAMES NACHTWEY

By JACK N. ANDERSON
*Special to The New York Gazette*

MANHATTAN, New York, November 2 -- On the eve of the election, while he trails behind in the polls, President Redford will deliver a speech revealing the alien monster that attacked New York was a hoax perpetrated by "the world's smartest man" and "humanity's savior" -- Adrian Veidt. At four o'clock today, the President will unveil the details of a covert investigation dubbed "Operation: Commodus" that was launched earlier this year. "Operation: Commodus" was so secret, it was run out of the White House and overseen by the President directly.

The final report was turned into the President last night and connects the mysterious and unsolved deaths of writers, artists, engineers, physicists, journalists and even Ozymandias' former costumed colleagues to Adrian Veidt. In the wake of "The New York City Massacre," wars ended, political enemies became allies and Veidt stepped into the spotlight. For the last seven years, he has influenced the world more than any other man in history, creating new policies and brokering alliances across the globe. Although never taking political office, Veidt has been seen by the world as

## THE STRANGE CASE OF ROGER JACKSON

BY DOUG ROTH

The FBI are hoping new clues will point them in the direction of the journal of one of New York's most infamous figures and the possible true killer of a man who had it in his possession for years. In 1986, the now-defunct publication known as *The New Frontiersman* published mad ramblings

his home. Initially, the police believed it to be a break-in gone wrong, leading to the arrest and conviction of Roger Jackson, a young thief who had evidence seemingly mounted against him. Now, in a turn of events, subsequent investigations

Seemingly the countries of the world

A6 | NOVEMBER 5, 1992 New York Gazette

## NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT STALLS

*GRAPHIC ABOV*
*France, South Af*

By MARTH

Adrian Veidt's pe
disarm the world's
finally looking lik
latest developments
waves throughout the
halted the battle in it
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seen its share of succe
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election. President R
Free" proposal becan
campaign While S
Mikhail Gorbachev's
in any kind of disarma
led to the failed coup d'
wake. Gorbachev res
Soviet Union collapsed
Yeltsin took control
Federation and pro
Redford and the other
NTA in their nuclear pe
Veidt leading the charge

Gunga Diner

COM
SIX U
DAD'S DROP

# NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT STALLS

*GRAPHIC ABOVE: Nuclear powers include the United States, the United Kingdom, France, South Africa, Russia, Israel, Pakistan, India, China and North Korea.*

By MARTHA GELLHORN

Adrian Veidt's personal campaign to disarm the world's nuclear arsenal was finally looking like a reality, yet the latest developments have sent shock-waves throughout the world and seemingly halted the battle in its tracks. Launched in 1988, the anti-nuclear mission has seen its share of success and appeared to be on its way to culmination. Commonly believed to have won him the '88 election, President Redford's "Nuclear Free" proposal became central to his campaign. While Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's refusal to engage in any kind of disarmament discussions led to the failed *coup d'etat* of '89. In its wake, Gorbachev resigned and the Soviet Union collapsed. President Boris Yelstin took control of the Russian Federation and promptly joined Redford and the other members of the NTA in their nuclear peace talks. With Veidt leading the charge and the United Nations embracing his Global Data Exchange Program, the NTA agreed to a disarming of all nuclear weapons over a 20-year period. But one world super-power was still standing in the way. Over the years, Israel has been steadfast in its refusal to confirm possession of nuclear weapons. That all changed with the Vela incident, long-rumored to be evidence of Israel's nuclear testing. Veidt's tenacity paid off when his investigation using global forensics to uncover the truth behind the mysterious event of 1979 forced Israel to admit the existence of its nuclear arsenal. The country reluctantly joined the NTA's disarmament plan. But just three years in, that plan has come to a grinding halt. As the world reels from the accusations against Adrian Veidt, President Redford has terminated his "Nuclear Free" program and withdrawn from the NTA. It's only a matter of time before the rest follow as everything Ozymandias has touched, crumbles.

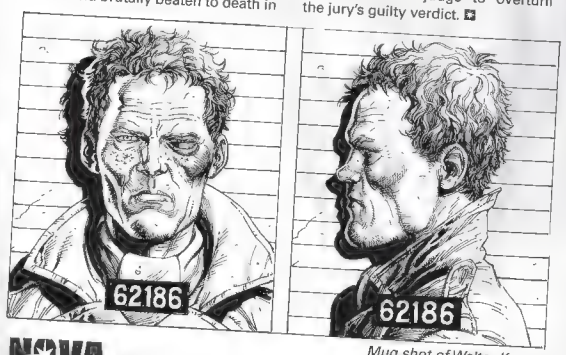
## Gunga Diner Food Poisoning Confirmed

# THE STRANGE CASE OF ROGER JACKSON

BY DOUG ROTH

The FBI is hoping new clues will point them in the direction of the journal of one of New York's most infamous figures and the possible true killer of a man who had it in his possession for years. In 1986, the now-defunct publication known as *The New Frontiersman* printed the mad ramblings of Walter Kovacs, today better known as the vigilante Rorschach. Pages from Rorschach's alleged journal were transcribed and squeezed between a Sunbursts candy ad and an interview with a man who Kovacs bit when they were children. It was ignored, as most things in *The New Frontiersman* were at the time. Shortly after the publication, the man who first found Rorschach's journal, Seymour David--an employee at *The New Frontiersman*, was found brutally beaten to death in his home. Initially,the police believed it to be a break-in gone wrong, leading to the arrest andconviction of Roger Jackson, a young thief who had evidence seemingly mounted against him. Now, in a turn of events, subsequent investigations are telling a different story. New information is pointing to Jackson's innocence and that this robbery was not random at all. At the center of this mystery, which could be the key to finding the true killer, is what was missing from Seymour David's hands when his body was found--Rorschach's journal. Where is it and what additional information does it hold that would cause someone to kill for it? The FBI is tight-lipped, but Jackson's attorneys have already filed a motion for the judge to overturn the jury's guilty verdict. ✪

Continued on page 29

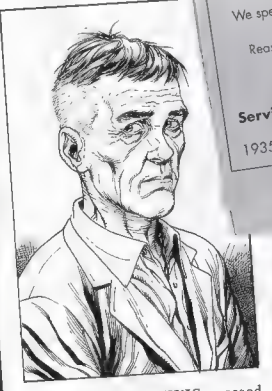



Mug shot of Walter Kovacs

NOVA EXPRESS February 1987

COMBINATION PLIER
Drop forged from an extra grade of steel. The handles are so designed that they fit in the palm of the hand, thereby making it an easy cutting tool.
SIX USEFUL TOOLS IN ONE
WIRE CUTTER WIRE GRIP FLATNOSE PLIER SIDE CUTTER REAMER SCREW DRIVER
A household tool that is constantly needed in all trades and professions. No. 700, 7 inch, sent prepaid to any address in the United States on receipt of $1.75. We can also furnish this tool in the nickel-plated finish for $2.50. EVERY TOOL GUARANTEED.
ASK YOUR DEALER FOR DAD'S TOOLS
Only the Genuine Bear This Mark.
Write for Plier Palmistry It contains our complete line of pliers and Nippers
Dad's
DAD'S DROP FORGE & TOOL CO., 6 Progeny Avenue, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

## OBITUARIES



**MR. BYRON LEWIS** passed away this Sunday, October 11, at the age of 80. He was born in Bethlehem, Connecticut, but moved to New York to pursue a career in engineering and aviation. Mr. Lewis was one of the largest private donors to "The New York City Massacre Victims Fund" and an advocate of mental health programs. Funeral services for Mr. Lewis will be held at 9 o'clock Friday morning at the Fitzgerald Mental Home at 22 Second Street North, Waterville Maine where he spent the last years of his life. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery. Donations in Mr. Lewis's name to the Fitzgerald Mental Home, which was damaged in a gas explosion last week, are encouraged

SCHRODINGER'S CLOCK & WATCH REPAIR
"Broken is a state of mind!"
We specialize in Antique Clocks, Pocket Watches and Grandfather Clocks!
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MORNING JOE'S

WELCOME TO MORNING JOE'S!

Fruits and Juices

Orange Juice.....$1.10
Grapefruit Juice.....$1.25
Tomato Juice.....$1.10
Apple Juice.....$1.25
Pineapple Juice.....$1.25
Half a Grapefruit.....$1.25
Full Grapefruit.....$2.00
Fresh Fruit (in season)....$1.25

Morning Joe's Famous Pancakes!

A small stack of Joe's Famous Pancakes.....$2.00
A large stack of Joe's Famous Pancakes.....$3.50
Joe's Famous Pancakes with Blueberries..... add $1.00
Joe's Famous Pancakes with Strawberries..... add $1.00
Joe's Famous Pancakes with Peaches & Cream..... add $1.50
Joe's Cinnamon Swirl Pancakes.....$3.75

JOE'S SPECIAL! ADD A SMALL STACK OF JOE'S FAMOUS PANCAKES TO ANY BREAKFAST FOR $1.50!

From The Grill!

Fresh Eggs (2) Fried, Boiled Poached or Scrambled.....$2.50
Fresh Eggs with Ham, Bacon or Sausage Links.....$3.75
Side Order of Ham, Bacon Or Sausage Links.....$1.65
Plain Omelette (3 eggs) with Toast and Jelly.....$3.75
Ham and Cheese Omelette.$3.60
Blini with Smoked Salmon.....$3.25

Beverages

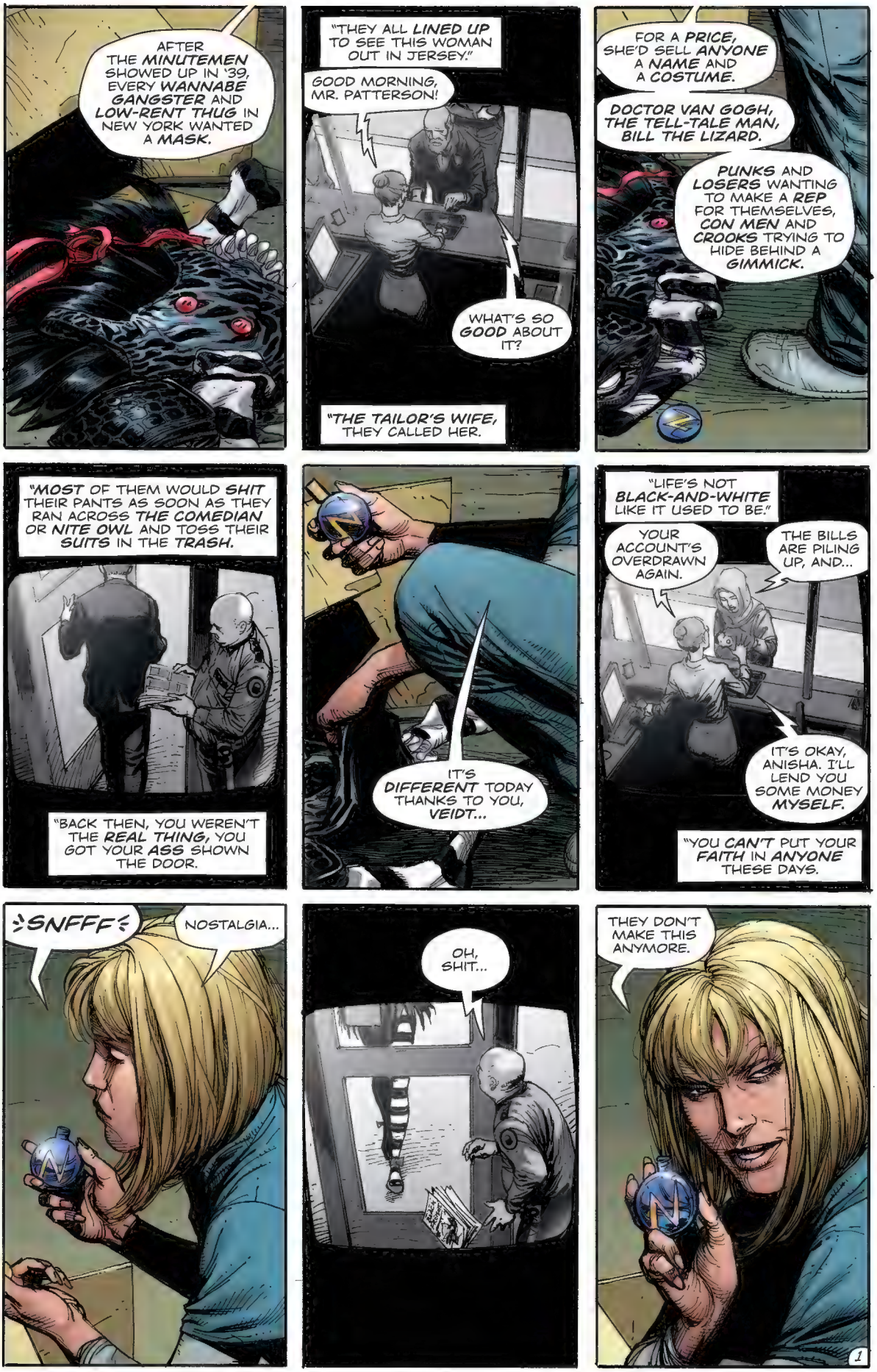
Cup of Joe's, Freshly Brewed.....$0.60
Tea (Black or Mint).....$0.60
Milk (Skim or Whole).....$0.60
Hot Chocolate.....$0.90

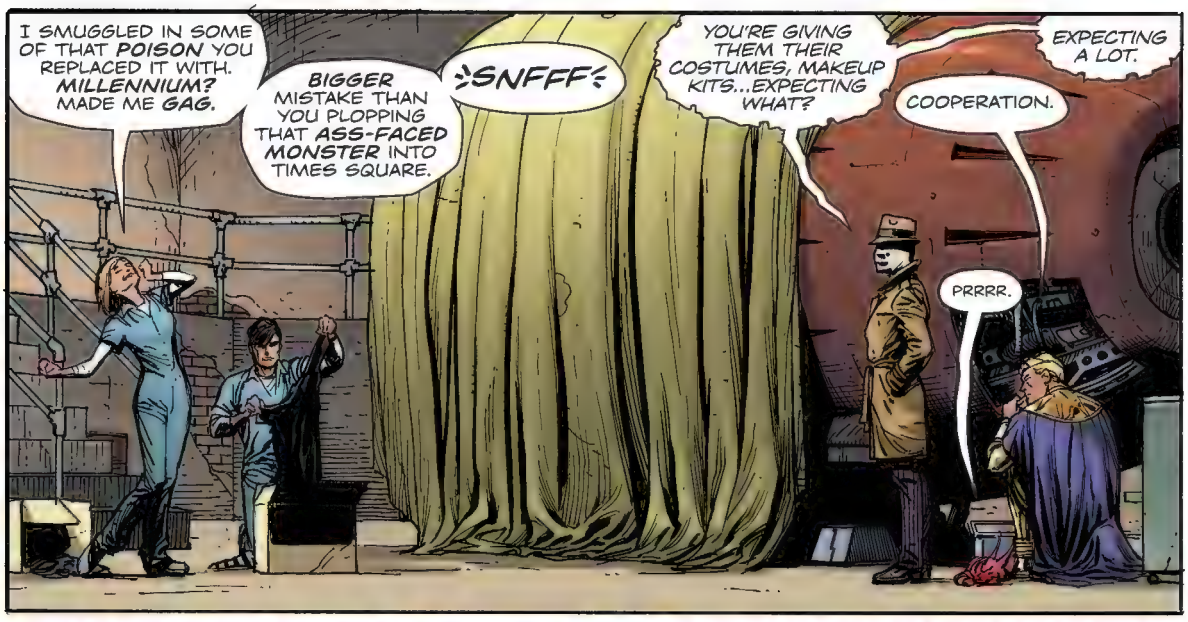
For The Kids!

Joe's Famous Silver Dollar Pancakes.....$1.25
Sunny-side eggs and toast.....$1.50
Sugar Frosted Flakes or Cornflakes and milk.....$1.00

THE BEST BREAKFAST IN THE CITY!
SERVED FROM 5AM UNTIL 11AM!

2017
BA

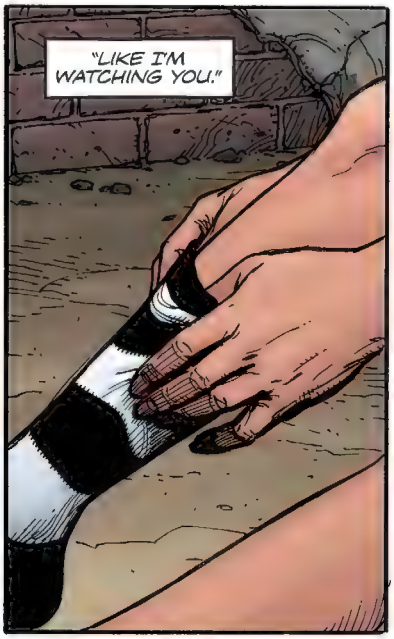

AFTER THE MINUTEMEN SHOWED UP IN '39, EVERY WANNABE GANGSTER AND LOW-RENT THUG IN NEW YORK WANTED A MASK.
"THEY ALL LINED UP TO SEE THIS WOMAN OUT IN JERSEY."
GOOD MORNING, MR. PATTERSON!
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT IT?
"THE TAILOR'S WIFE, THEY CALLED HER.
FOR A PRICE, SHE'D SELL ANYONE A NAME AND A COSTUME.
DOCTOR VAN GOGH, THE TELL-TALE MAN, BILL THE LIZARD.
PUNKS AND LOSERS WANTING TO MAKE A REP FOR THEMSELVES, CON MEN AND CROOKS TRYING TO HIDE BEHIND A GIMMICK.
"MOST OF THEM WOULD SHIT THEIR PANTS AS SOON AS THEY RAN ACROSS THE COMEDIAN OR NITE OWL AND TOSS THEIR SUITS IN THE TRASH.
"BACK THEN, YOU WEREN'T THE REAL THING, YOU GOT YOUR ASS SHOWN THE DOOR.
IT'S DIFFERENT TODAY THANKS TO YOU, VEIDT...
"LIFE'S NOT BLACK-AND-WHITE LIKE IT USED TO BE."
YOUR ACCOUNT'S OVERDRAWN AGAIN.
THE BILLS ARE PILING UP, AND...
IT'S OKAY, ANISHA. I'LL LEND YOU SOME MONEY MYSELF.
"YOU CAN'T PUT YOUR FAITH IN ANYONE THESE DAYS.
:SNFFF:
NOSTALGIA...
OH, SHIT...
THEY DON'T MAKE THIS ANYMORE.
1


I SMUGGLED IN SOME OF THAT POISON YOU REPLACED IT WITH. MILLENNIUM? MADE ME GAG.
BIGGER MISTAKE THAN YOU PLOPPING THAT ASS-FACED MONSTER INTO TIMES SQUARE.
:SNFFF:
YOU'RE GIVING THEM THEIR COSTUMES, MAKEUP KITS...EXPECTING WHAT?
EXPECTING A LOT.
COOPERATION.
PRRRR.

"THEY SEE WORLD THROUGH WARPED LENS.

"PSYCHOTIC. SADISTIC.
"MAYBE MASOCHISTIC.

"NEED TO WATCH THEM CLOSE."
OH, MY GOD...IT'S THEM!


"LIKE I'M WATCHING YOU."

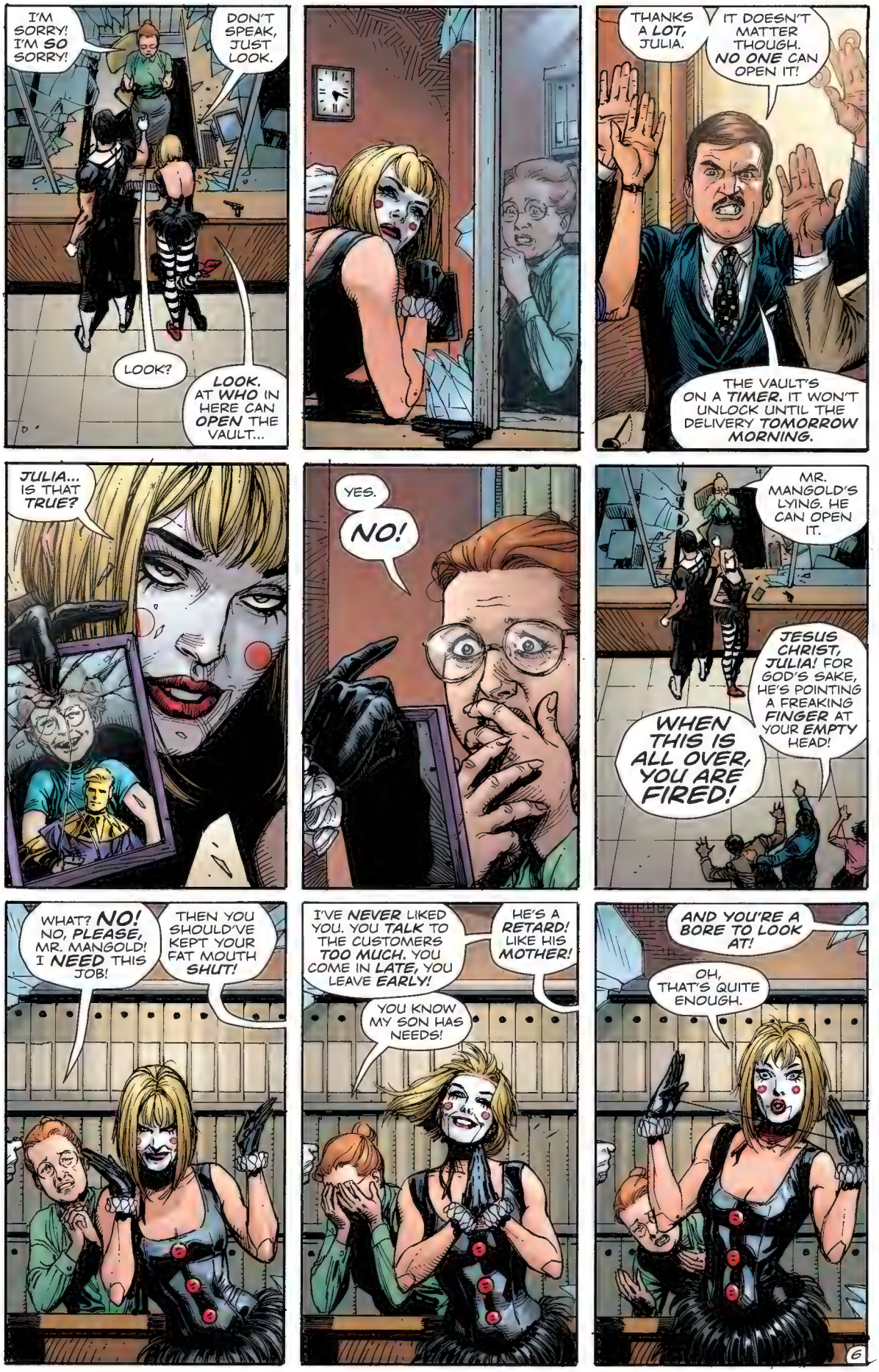
"I'VE GOT NOTHING TO HIDE, RORSCHACH."
"NOTHING EXCEPT EVERYTHING, VEIDT.

YOU'RE GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY AGAIN.

HAPPY MONDAY!
IT'S WEDNESDAY...
WHATEVER.
"YOU SEE THE WORLD FOR WHAT IT IS, RORSCHACH.
"YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW THAT SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE DIRT."
IS THAT A GUN IN YOUR POCKET, OR ARE YOU HAPPY TO SEE ME?
"LET THE TIGERS PUT ON THEIR STRIPES.
"WE'RE ALL CONSIDERED CRIMINALS NOW."
MWAH!
"BUT IF WE FIND MANHATTAN...
"IF I CONVINCE HIM TO SAVE THE WORLD..."
3

# PLACES WE HAVE NEVER KNOWN

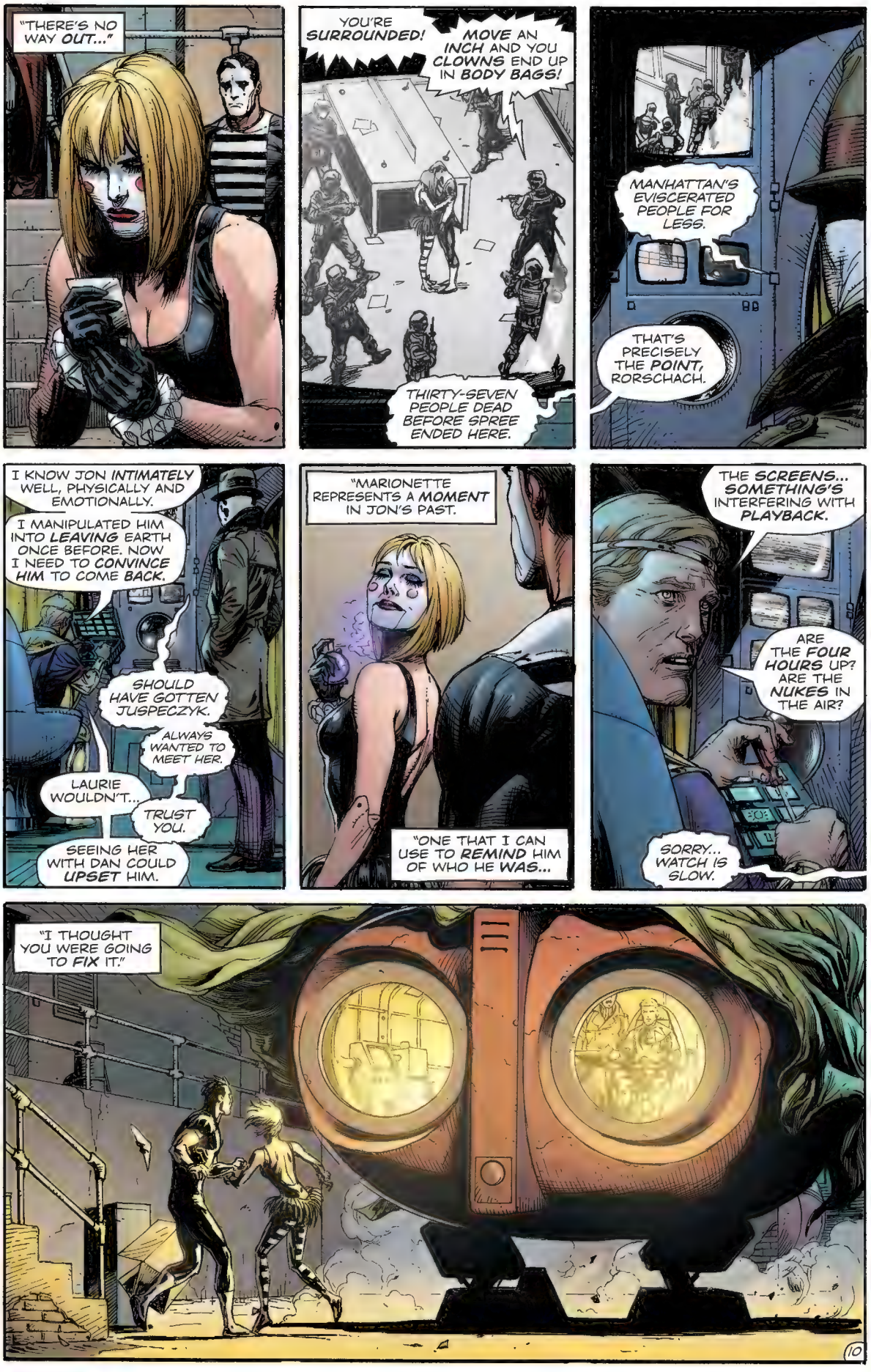
PLEASE! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, I...
AAAAAAA!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT...
WHAT A NICE PICTURE!
AW...
HE'S VERY CUTE. I BET HE LOVES HIS MOTHER VERY MUCH.
AND I BET HIS MOTHER LOVES HIM.


I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
DON'T SPEAK, JUST LOOK.
LOOK?
LOOK. AT WHO IN HERE CAN OPEN THE VAULT...
THANKS A LOT, JULIA.
IT DOESN'T MATTER THOUGH. NO ONE CAN OPEN IT!
THE VAULT'S ON A TIMER. IT WON'T UNLOCK UNTIL THE DELIVERY TOMORROW MORNING.
JULIA... IS THAT TRUE?
YES.
NO!
MR. MANGOLD'S LYING. HE CAN OPEN IT.
JESUS CHRIST, JULIA! FOR GOD'S SAKE, HE'S POINTING A FREAKING FINGER AT YOUR EMPTY HEAD!
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, YOU ARE FIRED!
WHAT? NO! NO, PLEASE, MR. MANGOLD! I NEED THIS JOB!
THEN YOU SHOULD'VE KEPT YOUR FAT MOUTH SHUT!
I'VE NEVER LIKED YOU. YOU TALK TO THE CUSTOMERS TOO MUCH. YOU COME IN LATE, YOU LEAVE EARLY!
HE'S A RETARD! LIKE HIS MOTHER!
YOU KNOW MY SON HAS NEEDS!
AND YOU'RE A BORE TO LOOK AT!
OH, THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH.

YES! YES, IT IS ENOUGH, YOU DERANGED BITCH! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO OUR CUSTOMERS ARE?
WE'RE ONE MILE AWAY FROM ROCKEFELLER...
WHAT ARE YOU...
5%
EEEYYAAAII!
I KNOW, I KNOW. MY SLICING STRING CUTS DEEP.
BUT IT COULD'VE BEEN MUCH WORSE. BE GLAD IT WAS YOUR FINGER.
SO HOW DO YOU OPEN THE VAULT? YOU KNOW THE CODE? HAVE THE KEY?
N-NO.
H-HAND READER.
OH.
UH.
OOPS.
WHICH HAND?
SHIT.
DID ANYONE SEE WHERE HIS FINGER WENT?
7

WHOA!
WHERE'D THAT STATIC COME FROM? SOME KIND OF ALARM?
I TOLD YOU!
YOU PICKED THE WRONG BANK!
YAAAAA!
YOU'RE IN FOR IT NOW.
WOW.
NICE BRIEFS.
8

WAIT!
DON'T KILL HIM!
YOU DON'T KILL HIM WITHOUT KILLING ME.
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
BABUM
BABUM
"WHAT IS IT?"
9

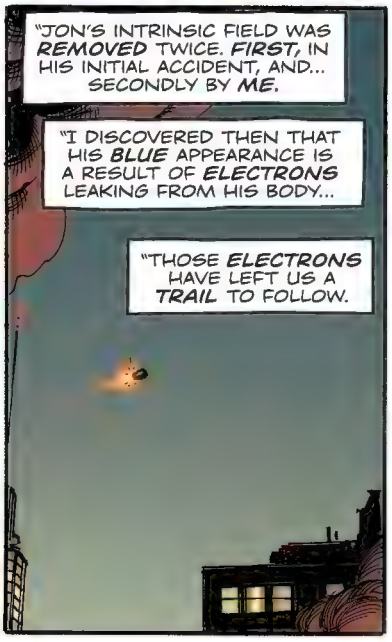

"THERE'S NO WAY OUT..."
YOU'RE SURROUNDED!
MOVE AN INCH AND YOU CLOWNS END UP IN BODY BAGS!
THIRTY-SEVEN PEOPLE DEAD BEFORE SPREE ENDED HERE.
MANHATTAN'S EVISCERATED PEOPLE FOR LESS.
THAT'S PRECISELY THE POINT, RORSCHACH.
I KNOW JON INTIMATELY WELL, PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.
I MANIPULATED HIM INTO LEAVING EARTH ONCE BEFORE. NOW I NEED TO CONVINCE HIM TO COME BACK.
SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN JUSPECZYK.
ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET HER.
LAURIE WOULDN'T...
TRUST YOU.
SEEING HER WITH DAN COULD UPSET HIM.
"MARIONETTE REPRESENTS A MOMENT IN JON'S PAST.
"ONE THAT I CAN USE TO REMIND HIM OF WHO HE WAS...
THE SCREENS... SOMETHING'S INTERFERING WITH PLAYBACK.
ARE THE FOUR HOURS UP? ARE THE NUKES IN THE AIR?
SORRY... WATCH IS SLOW.
"I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO FIX IT."

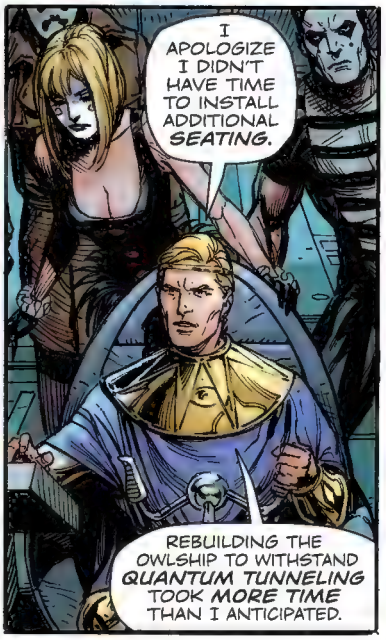
"THERE ARE BILLIONS OF PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET."
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!
POLICE

"EVERY LIVING BEING HAS A UNIQUE INTRINSIC FIELD THAT HOLDS THEIR ATOMS TOGETHER.

"A QUANTUM FINGERPRINT MADE UP OF THE FOUR FUNDAMENTAL FORCES OF NATURE."
IS THAT A PLANE?

"ELECTROMAGNETIC. STRONG INTERACTION. WEAK INTERACTION. AND GRAVITY.

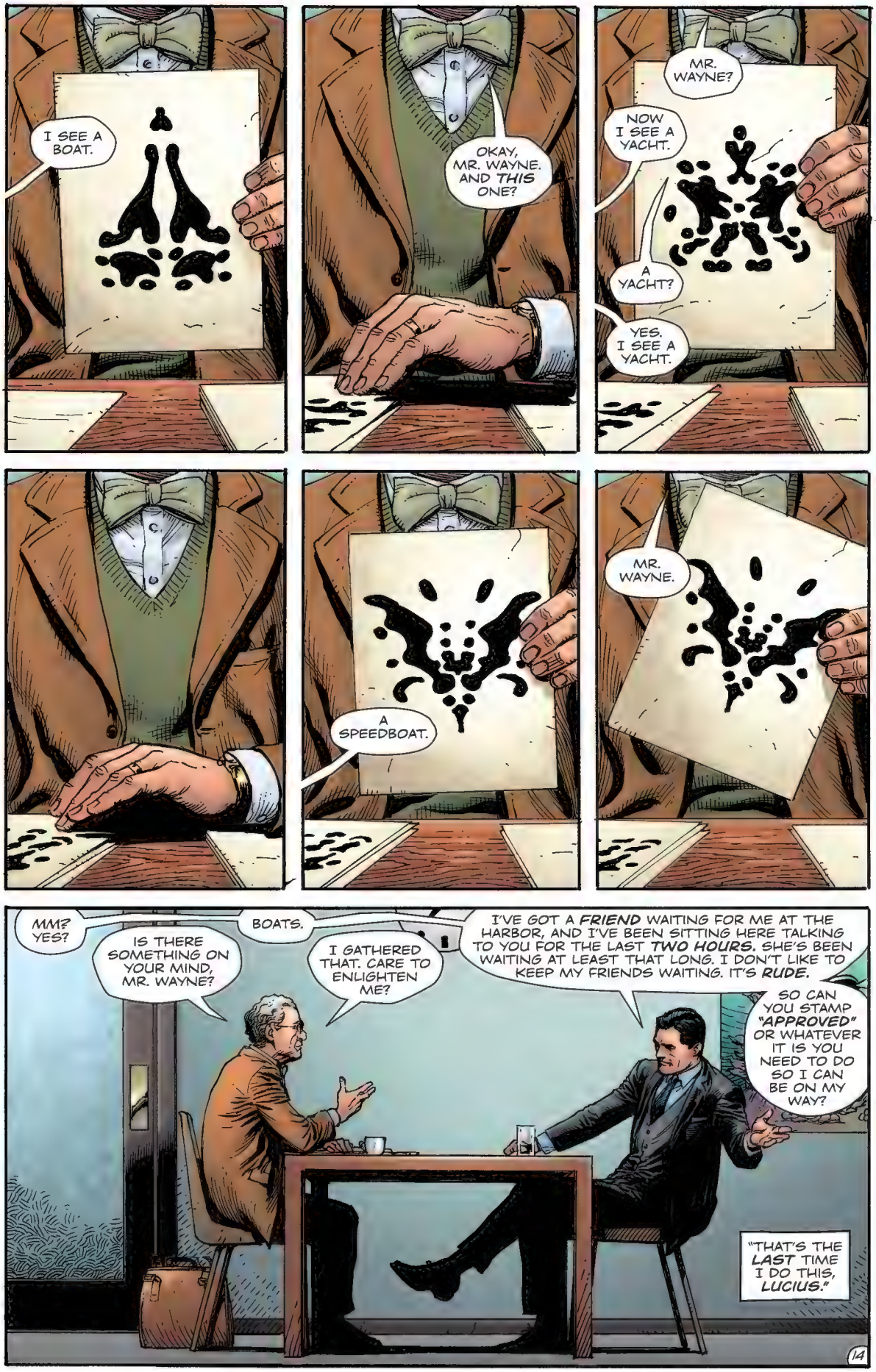

"JON'S INTRINSIC FIELD WAS REMOVED TWICE. FIRST, IN HIS INITIAL ACCIDENT, AND... SECONDLY BY ME.
"I DISCOVERED THEN THAT HIS BLUE APPEARANCE IS A RESULT OF ELECTRONS LEAKING FROM HIS BODY...
"THOSE ELECTRONS HAVE LEFT US A TRAIL TO FOLLOW.

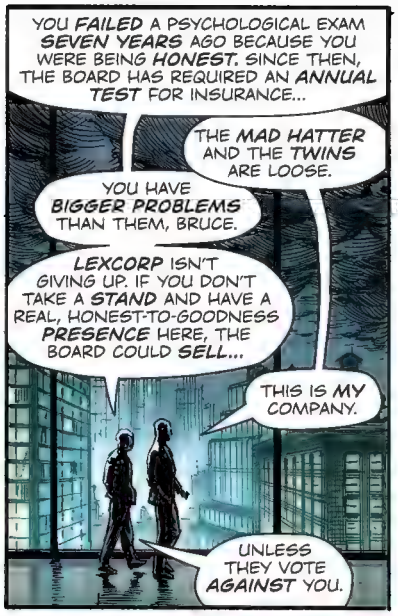

I APOLOGIZE I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL SEATING.
REBUILDING THE OWLSHIP TO WITHSTAND QUANTUM TUNNELING TOOK MORE TIME THAN I ANTICIPATED.

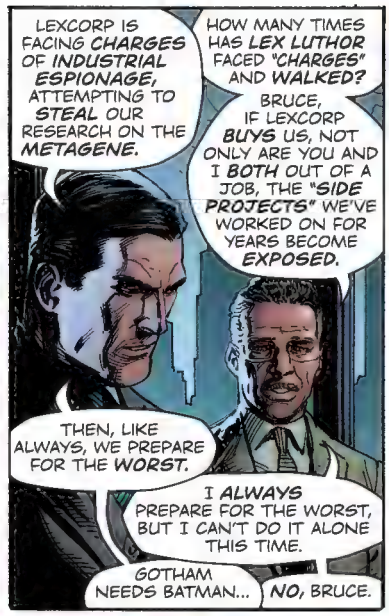
"EVERYONE HOLD ON."

"IT'S GOING TO BE A BUMPY RIDE.
IT...IT'S NOT WORKING.
WELL, PRESS IT AGAIN BEFORE THE MISSILE

"HULL SHOULD HOLD JUST LONG ENOUGH. WE'RE SHIFTING OUT...
NOW-W-W-W-W
MR. WAYNE?


I SEE A BOAT.
OKAY, MR. WAYNE. AND THIS ONE?
MR. WAYNE?
NOW I SEE A YACHT.
A YACHT?
YES. I SEE A YACHT.
A SPEEDBOAT.
MR. WAYNE.
MM? YES?
IS THERE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, MR. WAYNE?
BOATS.
I GATHERED THAT. CARE TO ENLIGHTEN ME?
I'VE GOT A FRIEND WAITING FOR ME AT THE HARBOR, AND I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE TALKING TO YOU FOR THE LAST TWO HOURS. SHE'S BEEN WAITING AT LEAST THAT LONG. I DON'T LIKE TO KEEP MY FRIENDS WAITING. IT'S RUDE.
SO CAN YOU STAMP "APPROVED" OR WHATEVER IT IS YOU NEED TO DO SO I CAN BE ON MY WAY?
"THAT'S THE LAST TIME I DO THIS, LUCIUS."

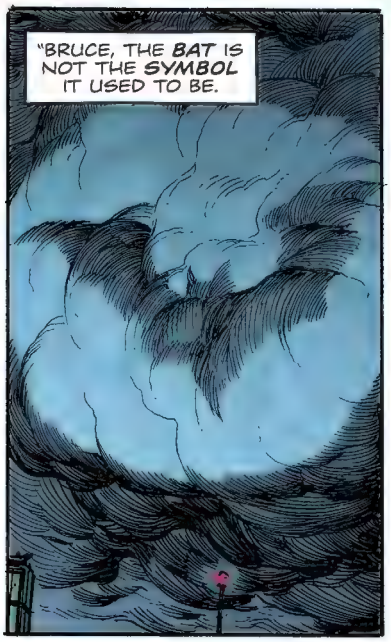

YOU FAILED A PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAM SEVEN YEARS AGO BECAUSE YOU WERE BEING HONEST. SINCE THEN, THE BOARD HAS REQUIRED AN ANNUAL TEST FOR INSURANCE...
THE MAD HATTER AND THE TWINS ARE LOOSE.
YOU HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS THAN THEM, BRUCE.
LEXCORP ISN'T GIVING UP. IF YOU DON'T TAKE A STAND AND HAVE A REAL, HONEST-TO-GOODNESS PRESENCE HERE, THE BOARD COULD SELL...
THIS IS MY COMPANY.
UNLESS THEY VOTE AGAINST YOU.


LEXCORP IS FACING CHARGES OF INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE, ATTEMPTING TO STEAL OUR RESEARCH ON THE METAGENE.
HOW MANY TIMES HAS LEX LUTHOR FACED "CHARGES" AND WALKED?
BRUCE, IF LEXCORP BUYS US, NOT ONLY ARE YOU AND I BOTH OUT OF A JOB, THE "SIDE PROJECTS" WE'VE WORKED ON FOR YEARS BECOME EXPOSED.
THEN, LIKE ALWAYS, WE PREPARE FOR THE WORST.
I ALWAYS PREPARE FOR THE WORST, BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE THIS TIME.
GOTHAM NEEDS BATMAN...
NO, BRUCE.

"GOTHAM DOESN'T WANT BATMAN.
NO MORE VIGILANTE TERROR

"THE WORLD'S GONE UPSIDE DOWN BECAUSE OF THE SUPERMEN THEORY.
"IT MAY HAVE STARTED WITH REX MASON AND KIRK LANGSTROM, BUT NOW THE MOB IS AFTER YOU...

THEY DON'T TRUST BATMAN ANYMORE...
WHEN HAVE THEY REALLY?


"BRUCE, THE BAT IS NOT THE SYMBOL IT USED TO BE.

"IT'S BECOME A DISEASE.

BUT IT'S ONE YOU CAN LIVE WITH AS LONG AS YOU MANAGE IT...
...AND KEEP IT FROM INFECTING OTHERS.
THIS ISN'T MY DOING. IT'S TEMPORARY PARANOIA, PERPETUATED BY RUSSIA AND MARKOVIA.
BATMAN'S A NECESSITY TO GOTHAM AND THE WORLD.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE ANYMORE. YOU NEED TO FACE THIS. ALL OF IT, BRUCE.
BRUCE?!

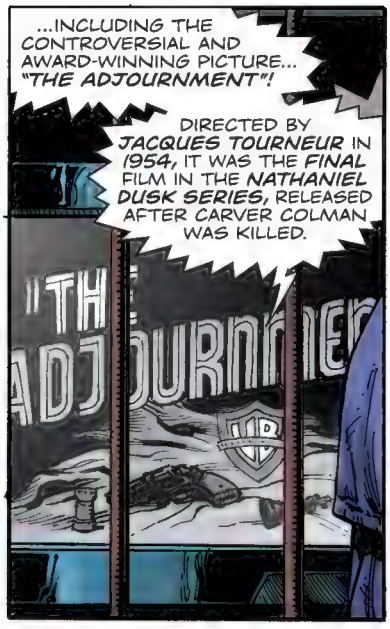
"WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO OPEN YOUR EYES?"
TRESPASSING
OPERTY HAS BEEN
DEMNED
E PROSECUTED TO
T OF THE LAW
HOUSE

KKF
RORSCHACH...
AAAUUUU!
RORSCHACH, IT'S ME! OZYMANDIAS.
VEIDT! K-K-KILL YOU...
NO. NO, WE MADE AN AGREEMENT. REMEMBER...
REGGIE...
WHERE...
WHAT HAPPENED?
I DID WHAT I SAID I WOULD. I BROUGHT US TO THE UNIVERSE DR. MANHATTAN TRAVELED TO.
NOW YOU AND I HAVE TO FIND HIM.
WE...
WHAT ABOUT THEM?

SHWA... WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU...?
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
CHAINED UP LIKE YOU SHOULD BE.
EAT SHIT, DICKHEAD.
YOU KISS HER WITH THAT MOUTH?
LET US LOOSE, VEIDT.
WE ALREADY AGREED TO HELP YOU TWO ASSHOLES, DIDN'T WE?
YES, YOU DID. AND I APPRECIATE THAT MORE THAN I CARE TO EXPRESS AT THE MOMENT, BUT I NEED SOME OBJECTIVE ASSURANCES THAT BOTH YOU AND THE MIME WILL STAY PUT WHILE RORSCHACH AND I LOCATE JON.
RR?
GIVEN WHO YOU ARE, I'M SURE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY PRECAUTIONS.
REOW?
POOR GIRL. I HOPE THE TRIP WASN'T TOO UPSETTING.
I NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM!
WHY BRING CAT? LEAVE PET HERE WITH OTHER ANIMALS.
SHE'S MORE THAN A PET, RORSCHACH.
PRRRR.
SHE'S THE COMPASS.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?
ON AN EARTH THAT APPEARS NOT ENTIRELY UNLIKE OURS...
MAYBE IT IS OURS. FLEW IN SKY, CRASHED BACK DOWN ON GROUND.
YOU'VE DONE IT BEFORE.

..."NATHANIEL DUSK" MARATHON, STARRING CARVER COLMAN AS "THE P.I. WITH NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE!"
HHH.
GBC WILL BE AIRING THESE FILMS UNEDITED AND UNINTERRUPTED...


...INCLUDING THE CONTROVERSIAL AND AWARD-WINNING PICTURE... "THE ADJOURNMENT"!
DIRECTED BY JACQUES TOURNEUR IN 1954, IT WAS THE FINAL FILM IN THE NATHANIEL DUSK SERIES, RELEASED AFTER CARVER COLMAN WAS KILLED.

"HIS DEATH REMAINS ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S MOST BRUTAL UNSOLVED MURDERS..."
THIS CITY IS CALLED GOTHAM.
GOTHAM?
YES, I KNOW.

IT APPEARS THIS WORLD IS YEARS AHEAD OF OURS IN SOME WAYS. BEHIND US IN OTHERS.
WE HAVE QUITE A BIT TO CATCH UP ON.
WHERE DO WE START?
WITH HEMINGWAY, WOOLF AND MAYAKOVSKY.

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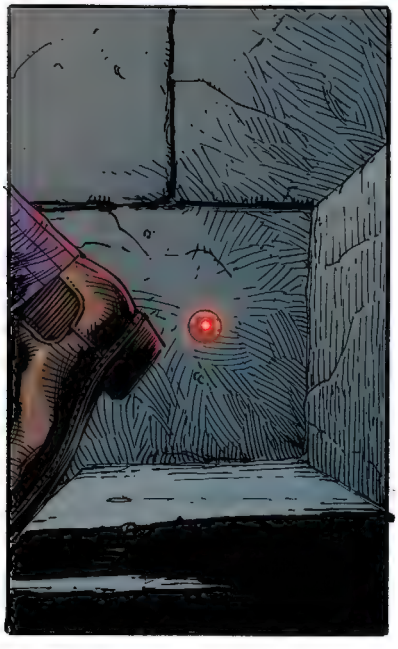
"HEMINGWAY, WOOLF AND MAYAKOVSKY HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON, VEIDT...
"DON'T LIKE IT HERE. CREEPY. LET'S GO."
"IN A MINUTE, RORSCHACH. THIS IS ALL SO INCREDIBLE."
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE VAST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR EARTHS, THE GREATEST DIVERGENT IS THE SHEER NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN WEARING MASKS. INCLUDING SOME WHO ARE ENTIRELY FICTIONAL ON OUR WORLD.
FICTIONAL ON OUR WORLD? MAYBE MANHATTAN CREATED THEM...
OR HE COULD BE ONE OF THEM.
CHANGE LOOK. CHANGE NAME.
IT'S POSSIBLE, YES. JON MAY HAVE WANTED TO START OVER WITH A NEW IDENTITY. A SECOND CHANCE.
SECOND CHANCE AT WHAT?
SAVING A WORLD.
THOSE WEARING COSTUMES, MOST OF THEM ARE SUPERHUMAN. THE DR. MANHATTAN PROBLEM A HUNDREDFOLD...
NNG.
AGAIN?
YES.
IT'S GETTING WORSE.
WE NEED SOMEONE TO HELP US NAVIGATE THESE WATERS AND FIND JON.
WHO...
I'VE ALREADY IDENTIFIED THE TWO SMARTEST PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET.
WHAT?
LEX LUTHOR AND BRUCE WAYNE. WE GO TO THEM. EXPLAIN WHO WE ARE AND WHY WE'RE HERE. TRY AND GET HELP TO...
STORY SOUNDS CRAZY.
NOT ANY CRAZIER THAN THIS PLACE.
SPLIT UP. SAVE TIME.
YES. THAT'S RIGHT.
WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?
THE SMARTEST, OF COURSE.
20

"WE MEET BACK AT THE SHIP IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
"AND RORSCHACH?"
"HH?"
"NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, DON'T INTERACT WITH ANYONE ELSE.
"DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING."
Good morning, Bruce!!

AAAAHH!

PUH-PLEASE, DON'T RETURN ME T-TO ARKHAM...
THEY MAKE ME WUH-WORSE...

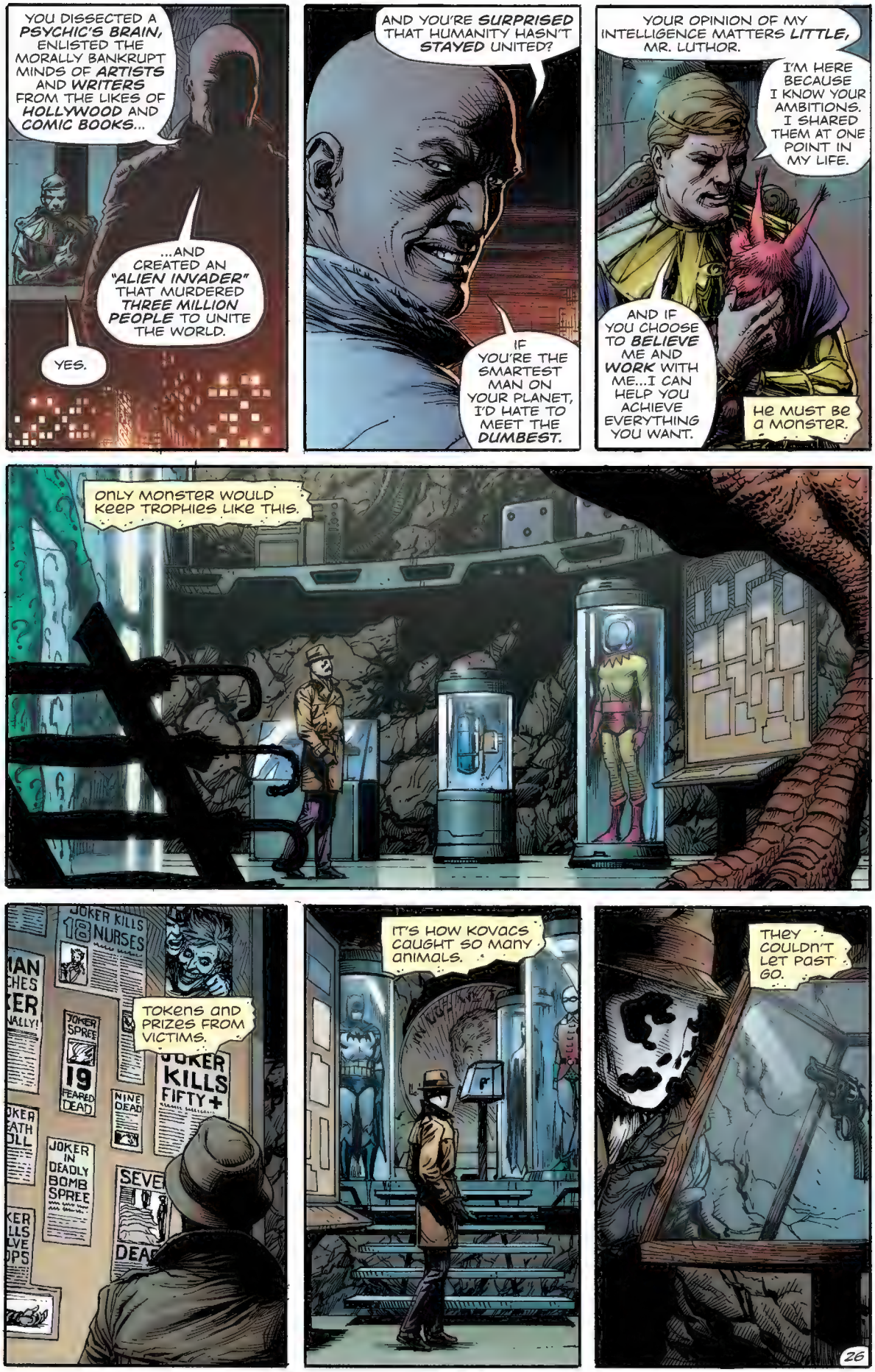
"I WASN'T SO MAD BEFORE, BATMAN."



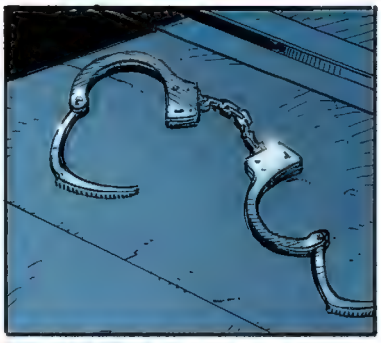
HURM.

YOU'RE ALL FIRED.
EXCORP LABS
IZED PERSONNEL ONLY
GO MISSING
I WILL END THIS WORLD BEFORE I LET WAYNE WIN.
EXCUSE ME...
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
I LET MYSELF IN.
I ADMIRE YOUR TASTE, MR. LUTHOR.
AND YOUR ASPIRATIONS.
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M THE SMARTEST MAN ON MY EARTH.
AND YOU'RE THE SMARTEST MAN ON YOURS.
NEVER MIND.
SECURITY WILL SHOW YOU OUT BEFORE I TERMINATE THEM FOR ALLOWING YOU IN.
IF I COULD GET A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME...
OH, YOU HAVE IT. FEEL FREE TO APPEASE MY CURIOSITY UNTIL THEY GET HERE, "SMARTEST MAN."

I'M BORED, AND IT'S GODDAMN HOT.
"MY WORLD WAS SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROL..."
YES! I COULD USE A DRINK TOO!
"...WENT INTO THE DEPTHS OF HUMANITY'S FEARS, SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING BEYOND HORROR..."
DID YOU BRING YOUR LOCKPICK, BABY?
...SPENT YEARS DEVISING A PLAN THAT I HOPED WOULD UNITE THE COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES, THOUGH AT A COST...
SO.
LET'S SEE IF I'M UNDERSTANDING YOU CORRECTLY.


YOU DISSECTED A PSYCHIC'S BRAIN, ENLISTED THE MORALLY BANKRUPT MINDS OF ARTISTS AND WRITERS FROM THE LIKES OF HOLLYWOOD AND COMIC BOOKS...
...AND CREATED AN "ALIEN INVADER" THAT MURDERED THREE MILLION PEOPLE TO UNITE THE WORLD.
YES.
AND YOU'RE SURPRISED THAT HUMANITY HASN'T STAYED UNITED?
IF YOU'RE THE SMARTEST MAN ON YOUR PLANET, I'D HATE TO MEET THE DUMBEST.
YOUR OPINION OF MY INTELLIGENCE MATTERS LITTLE, MR. LUTHOR.
I'M HERE BECAUSE I KNOW YOUR AMBITIONS. I SHARED THEM AT ONE POINT IN MY LIFE.
AND IF YOU CHOOSE TO BELIEVE ME AND WORK WITH ME...I CAN HELP YOU ACHIEVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT.
He must be a monster.
only monster would keep TROPHIES like this.
JOKER KILLS 18 NURSES
JOKER SPREE
19 FEARED DEAD
NINE DEAD
JOKER KILLS FIFTY+
JOKER IN DEADLY BOMB SPREE
Tokens and prizes from VICTIMS.
IT'S HOW KOVACS CAUGHT SO MANY animals.
THEY COULDN'T LET PAST GO.
26

OBSESSED WITH REliving YESTERDAY.
LIKE VEIDT.
A SAILOR HEARING THE SIREN'S CRY.
PULLING HIM TOWARD ROCKS.
RRAAAOOOW!
AAAA!
LAST TIME YOU CAME AT ME, I WAS CONFUSED.
DRUNK.
CHASING HIS GREATEST LIE.
IMPOSSIBLE.



We are torn between nostalgia for the familiar
and an urge for the foreign and strange.
As often as not,
we are homesick most
for the places we have never known.
—Carson McCullers

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METAHUMAN NEWS

# New Theory on Concentration of Metahumans in United States Raises Questions About Secret Origins

By Lowell Jeffries
*Metahuman News Correspondent*

December 7, 2017 – Metahuman News

The metahuman population is undeniably concentrated in the United States of America, leaving "super powers" in the world unbalanced.

**"The Supermen Theory" continues to be hotly debated as second metahuman's secret origin is tied to U.S. government.**

The President continues to deny any government involvement in the secret origins of America's metahumans, calling "The Supermen Theory" and its implied accusations "outright lies" and "completely fictitious." Today these denials are once again under fire as another metahuman is revealed to have ties to the U.S. government, giving more credence to "The Supermen Theory."

"The Supermen Theory" began making the rounds six months ago when a Markovian geneticist, Dr. Helga Jace, led an international coalition of scientists looking to answer a question that has long confounded the world.

*Why are the vast majority of the planet's metahumans American?*

Most often referred to as "super-heroes" and "super-villains" by the general public who watch their exploits with both awe and fear, metahumans began appearing after Superman revealed himself to the world. Men, women and even children wielding a diverse range of superhuman abilities have since emerged across America at a rapid rate.

Superman's history has been well documented and generally accepted; the Man of Steel comes from another planet, the long-dead Krypton. However, the metahumans who followed Superman remain a mystery. The vast majority of them hide their true identities, a fact that has become more and more unsettling across the planet. "The Supermen Theory" suggests that the metahumans of America are, in truth, government sponsored

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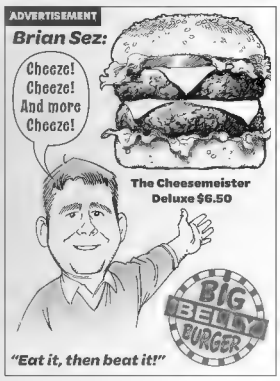


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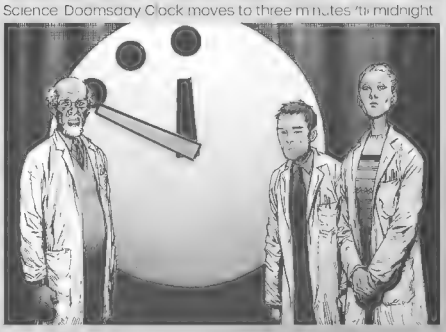

Unexplained: Bizarre "green" fire destroys All-American Steel factory

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To combat the initial skepticism toward "The Supermen Theory," Dr Jace pointed to leaked documents from the U.S. Department of Metahuman Affairs detailing the secret origin of Rex Mason, better known as Metamorpho and sometime ally to the Batman. Although initial reports suggested the former soldier-for-hire was accidentally transformed into the shape-shifting metahuman, the leaked documents paint a very different picture. The documents reveal Simon Stagg and Stagg Industries were under government contract, along with Rex Mason. Under Stagg's supervision, Mason voluntarily exposed himself to an ancient energy source, ultimately triggering his metagene and transforming him into Metamorpho.

As Metamorpho, Mason was often seen in public blaming Simon Stagg for the accident. But new allegations suggest Mason and Stagg, along with many others, were coached to create a "super-hero narrative" designed to cover Metamorpho's covert activities as a government agent. In recent weeks, three former "enemies" of Metamorpho, "Doc Dread," "Stingaree" and "the Prosecutor," have come forward with claims they were paid by the U.S. government to undergo their own transformations and take on the role of "super-villain" to Metamorpho.

Today a second metahuman's ties to the US government have been revealed. Kirk Langstrom, sometimes known as the creature called Man-Bat, has admitted that the research that led to his own transformation was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Metahuman Affairs. Since Langstrom's declaration, he has been unavailable for further comment, though the White House has issued a response.

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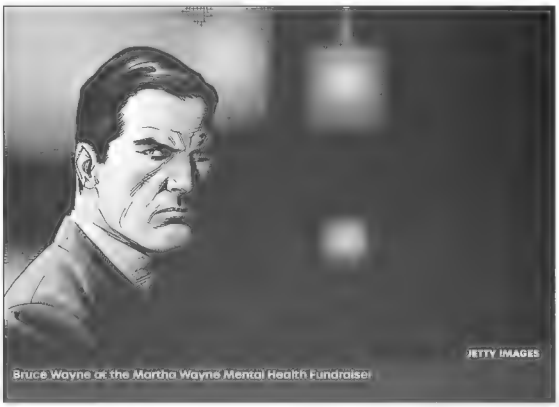


Bruce Wayne at the Martha Wayne Mental Health Fundraiser

## Multiple Arrests at LexCorp Following Accusations of Industrial Espionage

In what is arguably the greatest rivalry in American business today, the competition between LexCorp and Wayne Enterprises has reached new heights, leading to the arrests of four Wayne Enterprises employees -- each accused of helping LexCorp access highly confidential and experimental research. A genetic scientist, two managers and a security guard have all been charged after a breach in Wayne Enterprises systems was detected. Bruce Wayne claims the competition over the "metagene" is what motivated Lex Luthor to pay off employees within Wayne's company.

As "The Supermen Theory" has gained acceptance, if not outright validation, over the last several weeks, the competition between the two giants has entered a new and dangerous arena: metahuman biology. Technology that would control the metagene, or even eliminate it, could become the most valuable commodity in the world. The metagene, a genetic anomaly found in up to 12% of the human population, was discovered during the Dominator Invasion. This anomaly seems to be a step further from the human fight-or-flight response; when a traumatic or potentially lethal incident occurs, it can trigger the metagene, altering a person's genetic disposition and causing the development of superhuman abilities. Although many "super-heroes" and "super-villains" claim to derive their abilities from sources outside of the metagene, the truth behind their origins has come into question following the rise of "The Supermen Theory."

Since the theory was first presented, both LexCorp and Wayne Enterprises have been gobbling up every company that has done any kind of research on the metagene. LexCorp's stock soared after purchasing Kord Industries, Genetech and the Sunderland Corporation, while Wayne Enterprises has struggled to find the same kind of success through its acquisitions. The controversial decision to buy Dayton Labs, a troubled genetic research facility, sent Wayne stocks tumbling. Not helping matters, today Wayne Enterprises announced it is in the process of picking up the pieces of Stagg Industries in the wake of the Metamorpho scandal.

Although all four of the accused Wayne Enterprises employees claim to have had direct communication with Lex Luthor himself, he denies any involvement.

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Bruce Wayne at

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In what is argu
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been charged
Bruce Wayne cl
Lex Luthor to p

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over the last se
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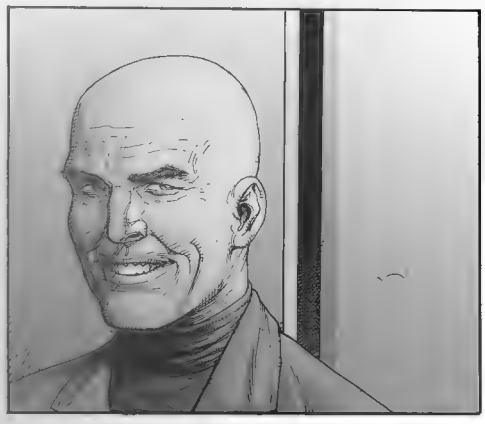
POLITICS

# Superman Takes a Stand against Metahuman Outrage as the World Reacts to Conspiracy Theories on Their Origins

By Lois Lane
December 20, 2017



Lex Luthor receiving the Copley Medal for his work in metahuman biology

After Lex Luthor's unleashing of an all-out anti-metahuman campaign yesterday, Superman has called for calm in this time of chaos. In a statement given to the Daily Planet, Superman said. "We cannot allow paranoia, fear and distrust to be our driving motives in our actions at this difficult time. Although I applaud the men and women who have done so many amazing things at LexCorp that have helped the world, I find the words and ideas of its leader misguided and, quite frankly, dangerous."

While the United Nations is debating whether to force the United States to open up its metahuman prisons and medical institutions for inspection, other world leaders are tempering their reactions to "The Supermen Theory" in a wait-and-see approach. But the more strident Lex Luthor made his stance clear with his tirade yesterday about the supposed dangers of metahumans and their impact on society at large. The outspoken and controversial head of LexCorp has never shied away from denouncing the super-heroes of the world, including Superman, but his recent comments have taken a decidedly darker and more threatening turn. Luthor encouraged all business leaders to denounce metahumans until they unmask and reveal their origins to the world. Until that time, Luthor has stated he will dedicate all of the necessary resources within LexCorp to uncovering the truth behind metahumans, promising to expose "as many of them as humanly possible."

As of this publication, Lex Luthor did not return inquiries.

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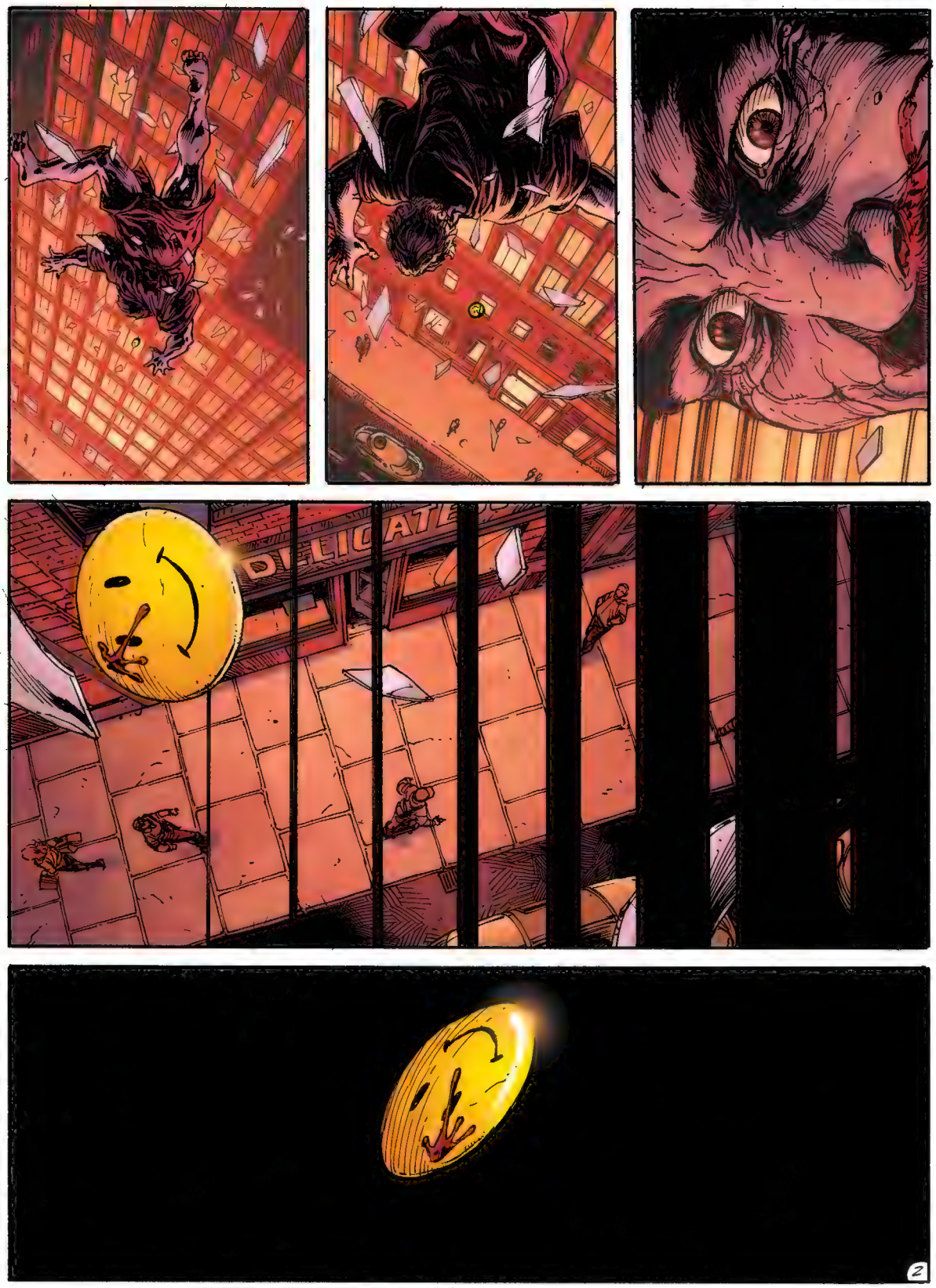
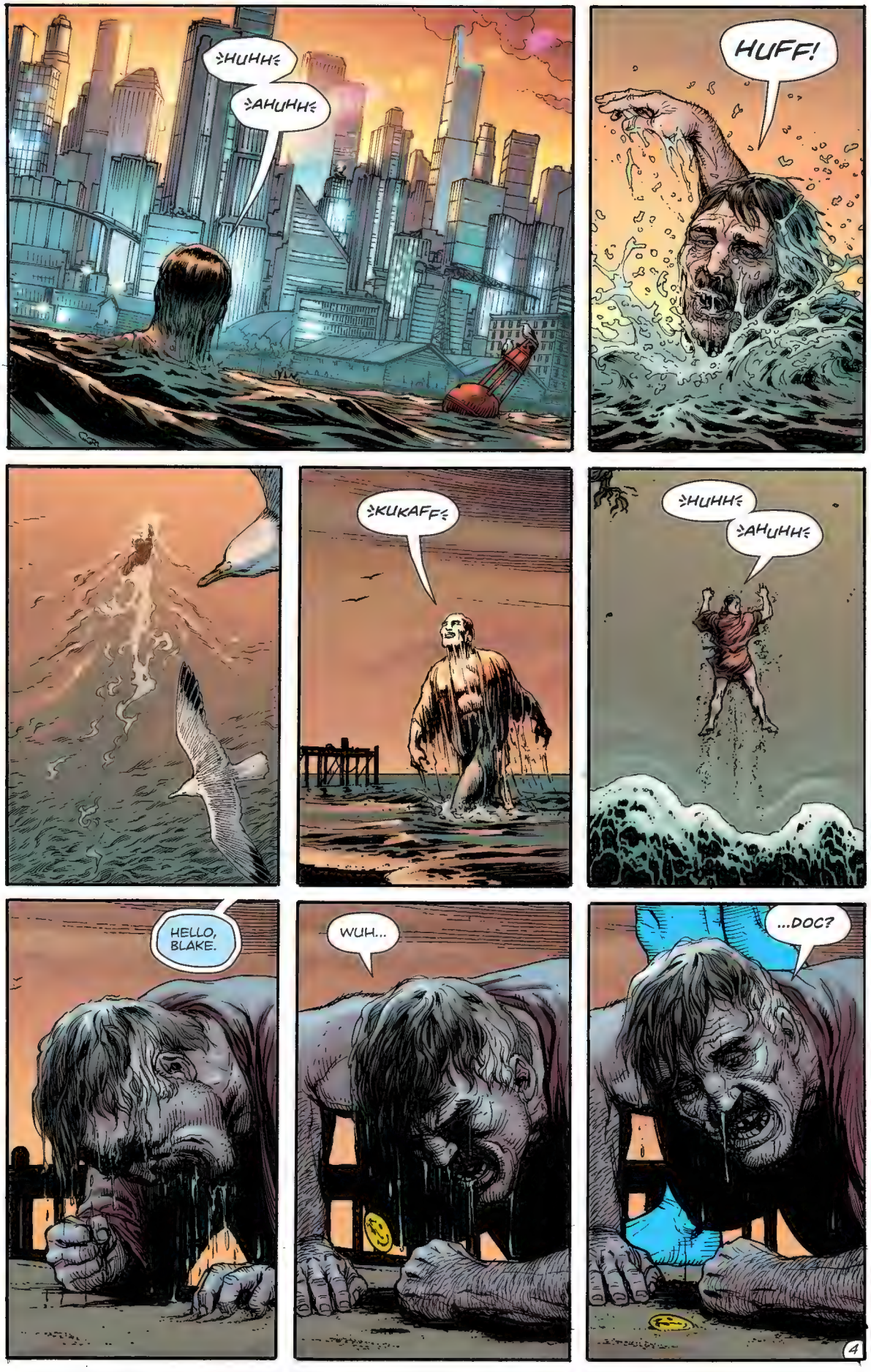
VICTORY
GIN
Vault Distillery est 1884

GIN
NNNAH
KKFF




# NOT VICTORY NOR DEFEAT

KAFFFFF
3


:HUHH:
:AHUHH:
HUFF!
:KUKAFF:
:HUHH:
:AHUHH:
HELLO, BLAKE.
WUH...
...DOC?

"WHAT AM I DOIN' HERE?
"AND WHERE THE HELL IS HERE?"
HAHAHAHA
WISH I HADDA GODDAMN CAMERA. THAT STUPID LOOK ON YOUR FACE.
I'M CERTAIN YOU FIND MY BEWILDERMENT AMUSING, EDWARD.
LOTTA THINGS ARE FUNNY, OZZY...
STRONG GLASS.
SHAME. WOULDA BEEN POETIC.
YOU KNOW, AFTER THE WAY...
YES, EDWARD...
...I THINK I UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT.
RREOW.
5

TURNIN' THE LIGHTS OFF? THAT'S YOUR BIG MOVE?
C'MON, OZZY. I'VE NEVER BEEN AFRAID OF THE DARK. I THRIVE IN IT...
YOU TOO.
YAAAA
CLEARLY, JON HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS.
WHERE IS HE?
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
HIIIIIII...
6

YAAA...
AAAA!
PEOPLE CALLED ME SICK...BUT YOU. EVERYTHING YOU DID...
I KILL YOU NOW AN' THEY'LL GIMME A GODDAMN MEDAL.
:NG:
YOU WERE NEVER ONE FOR MEDALS.
DEATH CHANGES A MAN.
SO WHAT NOW, OZZY? NOWHERE...
...TO...
7

...GO...
REEW!
HANG ON, GIRL.
HUPPPP
8

...NNFF!
HA.
WELL, SHIT...
WHAT IN THE...
RRR?
"YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE."

YOU'VE TRESPASSED. INTO A VERY DANGEROUS PLACE.
BRUCE WAYNE?
WEAR MASK TOO...
YOURS KEEPS CHANGING.
WHO ARE YOU?
NOT ENEMY. I AM RORSCHACH.

CAME HERE. ATE BREAKFAST, YES. FOUND CAVE. ELABORATE. QUESTION SANITY, MOTIVES.
COULD BE KILLER OR COLLECTOR...
BUT NEED HELP.
HELP FOR WHAT?
NOT FROM HERE. SOMEPLACE ELSE. MILLIONS DIED IN INSANE PEACE PLAN. FAMILY DIED...

HIS FAULT. SHOULDN'T BE HERE. SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM. HATE HIM.
WHO?
KING OF HEROES. KING OF LIES. CREATED INVADER. POISONED MINDS...
VEIDT...

WAIT...

EASIER TO EXPLAIN...
WAS HERE... SOMEWHERE...

NO, THAT'S FORK...
WRONG POCKET...

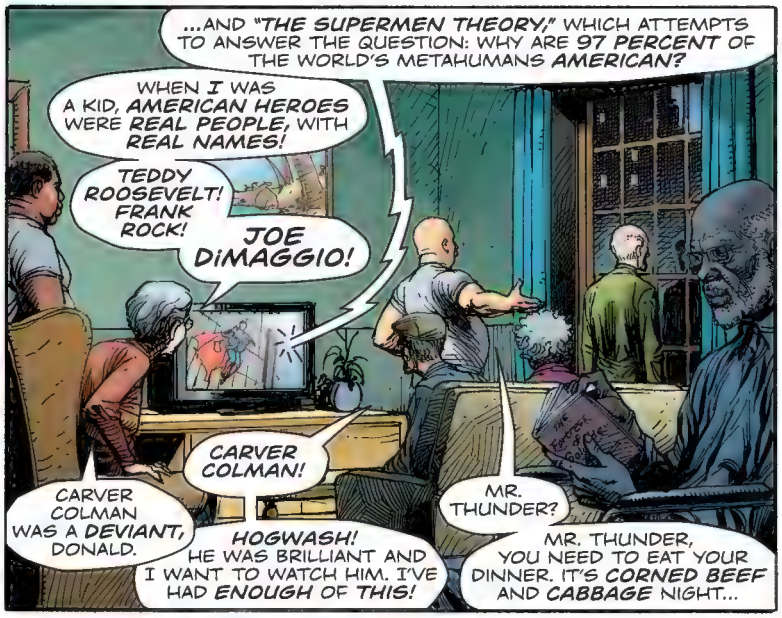
YES.
HERE IT IS...

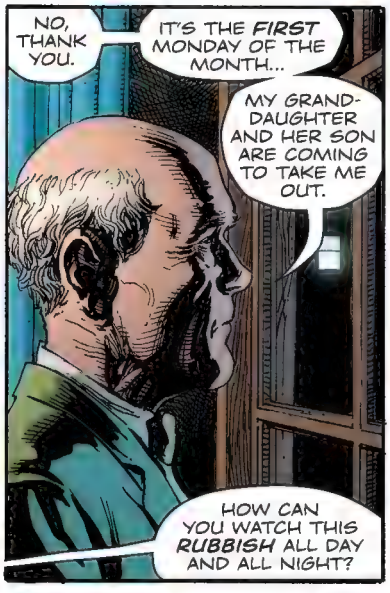
KOVACS' JOURNAL...
PLEASE.
READ THIS.
JOURNAL
1954
1955

IT WAS ALL OVER VEIDT'S FACE...
HE HAS NO IDEA WHERE WE ARE.
JERSEY, MAYBE?
NEVER SHOULD'VE JOINED THIS FREAK SHOW BEFORE HE TOLD US WHERE OUR BOY IS.
NOW WE'RE GOD-KNOWS-WHERE DOING GOD-KNOWS-WHAT...
BABY
TOTALLY, BABY! VEIDT'S THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND!
I MEAN, WHAT THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO TO DR. MANHATTAN EVEN IF WE FIND HIM? WHAT ARE WE GONNA SAY?
"KILL US NOW, I AIN'T PREGNANT NO MORE?!"
The DOG-FACED MAN.
THAT DOPE PRETENDING TO BE RORSCHACH, HE'S LOST HIS MIND... BUT WHO IS HE? WHY'S HE ALONG FOR THE RIDE?
BEAST OR MAN?
AND VEIDT. THAT ASSHOLE'S DESPERATE TO BE SOME KIND OF "SAVIOR"...BUT THIS SHIT IS HIS FAULT...
HE'S NOT TELLING US SOMETHING ...
THE CHURCH
LIKE THE JOKE'S ON US...
YEAH. IT'S NOT FUNNY...
AND THIS AIN'T JERSEY.
COME ON, LOVER.
LET'S GO FIND THAT DRINK...

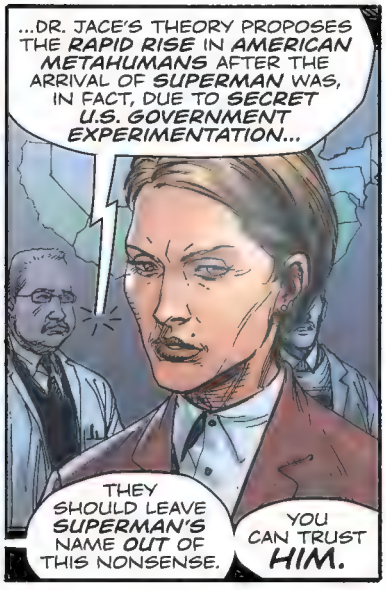
WHAT PAGE ARE YOU ON?
FOUR.
THAT'S ALL?
IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY. WHY DON'T YOU GO UPSTAIRS AND GET SOME REST? TAKE A SHOWER...
CLEAN UP.
YES... CLEAN UP.
NOT ONLY VEIDT...
MY HANDS ARE DIRTY, TOO.
12

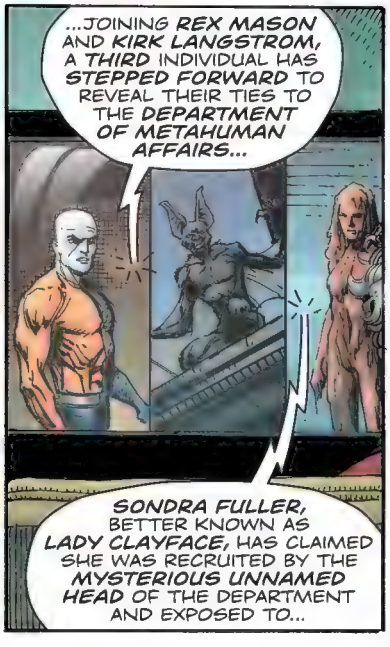
...INCREASINGLY TENSE HERE IN GOTHAM AS MORE MEMBERS OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT JOIN THE GROWING CROWDS...
...CALLING FOR THE BATMAN TO REVEAL HIS SECRET IDENTITY AND ADDRESS THE ACCUSATIONS CONNECTING HIM WITH HIS FORMER ALLY METAMORPHO, HIS ALLEGED ENEMY MAN-BAT...


...AND "THE SUPERMEN THEORY," WHICH ATTEMPTS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHY ARE 97 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S METAHUMANS AMERICAN?
WHEN I WAS A KID, AMERICAN HEROES WERE REAL PEOPLE, WITH REAL NAMES!
TEDDY ROOSEVELT! FRANK ROCK!
JOE DiMAGGIO!
CARVER COLMAN!
CARVER COLMAN WAS A DEVIANT, DONALD.
HOGWASH! HE WAS BRILLIANT AND I WANT TO WATCH HIM. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!
MR. THUNDER?
MR. THUNDER, YOU NEED TO EAT YOUR DINNER. IT'S CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE NIGHT...


NO, THANK YOU.
IT'S THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH...
MY GRAND-DAUGHTER AND HER SON ARE COMING TO TAKE ME OUT.
HOW CAN YOU WATCH THIS RUBBISH ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT?

IT'S SO DEPRESSING!
THEY'RE A LITTLE LATE, THAT'S ALL...

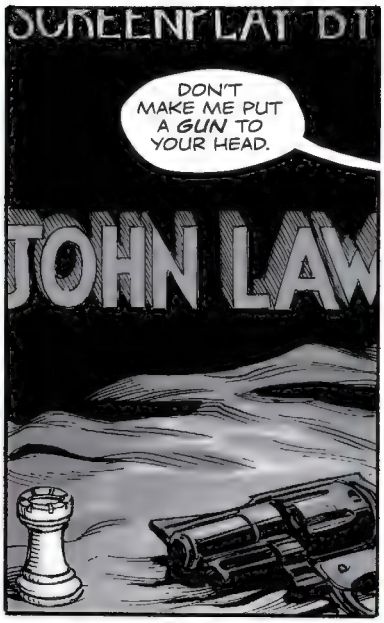

...DR. JACE'S THEORY PROPOSES THE RAPID RISE IN AMERICAN METAHUMANS AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF SUPERMAN WAS, IN FACT, DUE TO SECRET U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTATION...
THEY SHOULD LEAVE SUPERMAN'S NAME OUT OF THIS NONSENSE.
YOU CAN TRUST HIM.


...JOINING REX MASON AND KIRK LANGSTROM, A THIRD INDIVIDUAL HAS STEPPED FORWARD TO REVEAL THEIR TIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS...
SONDRA FULLER, BETTER KNOWN AS LADY CLAYFACE, HAS CLAIMED SHE WAS RECRUITED BY THE MYSTERIOUS UNNAMED HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT AND EXPOSED TO...

HEY! I WAS WATCHING THAT!

...THE 1954 CLASSIC, STARRING CARVER COLMAN IN HIS FINAL ROLE AS PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR NATHANIEL DUSK...
"THE ADJOURNM

...IN "THE ADJOURNMENT"!
CHANGE IT BACK!
MR. THUNDER, IT'S AFTER TEN O'CLOCK. YOU NEED TO EAT SOMETHING...


SCREENPLAY BY
DON'T MAKE ME PUT A GUN TO YOUR HEAD.
JOHN LAW

IT'S WORSE AT CHRISTMASTIME.
BUT I WORE MY BEST SUIT.
BEING WITHOUT MY FAMILY.

I LOST MY GIRL TO HER EX-HUSBAND, A GANGSTER WHO GOT A BULLET IN HIS GUT BUT DESERVED WORSE. AND THE KIDS TO HER PARENTS IN INDIANA.
TRUTH IS, JOYCE AND HER CHILDREN WERE NEVER MINE TO BEGIN WITH.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLING MYSELF.
BOTTLE HALF GONE, I'M STARTING TO BELIEVE IT.

BLINKING RED AND GREEN LIGHTS ON MARIA'S SOUP KITCHEN MAKE MY HEADACHE WORSE.
NEVER BEEN ONE FOR CHARITY.

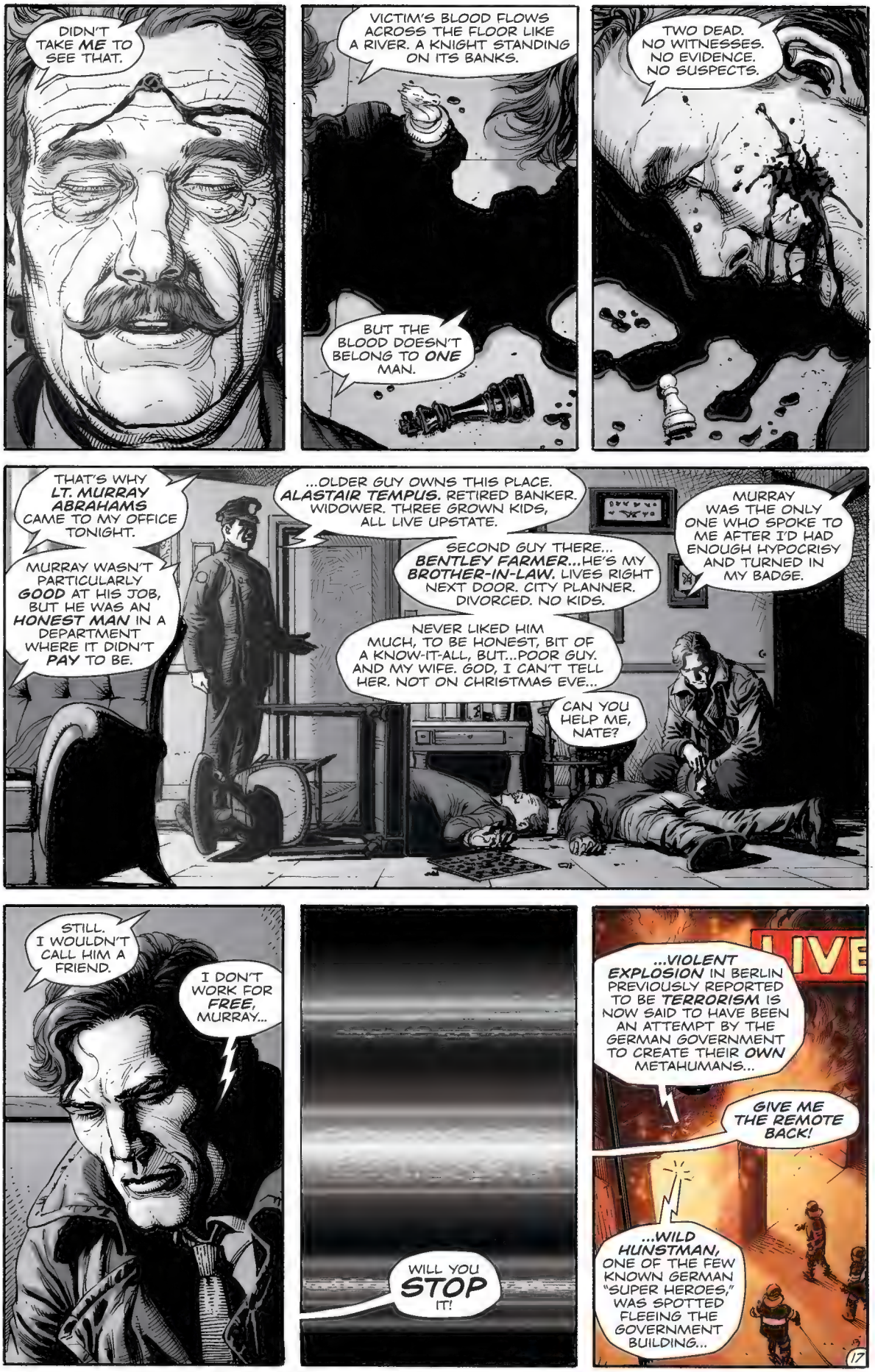
THAT'S WHY I WENT INTO BUSINESS FOR MYSELF.
NATHANIEL DUSK
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
BUT ON CHRISTMAS EVE, BUSINESS IS SUPPOSED TO BE CLOSED.

DUSK?
YOU IN THERE?
NATHANIEL DUSK
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

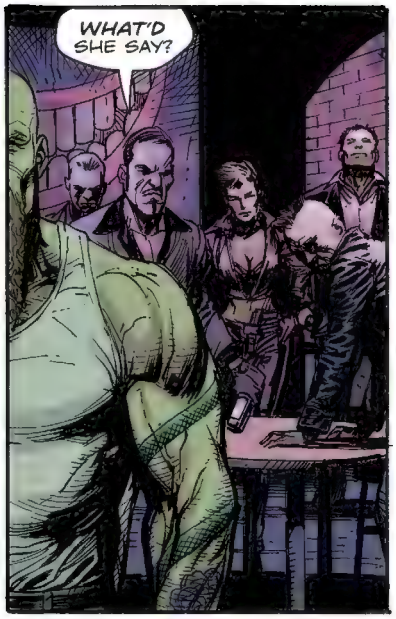
MY HAND SHAKES AS THE DOOR OPENS.
IN THE DARKNESS...

"...I CAN'T SEE THEIR FACE."
HURM.
TOLD YOU. DON'T NEED ROOM THIS BIG. NOT COMFORTABLE...
YES, WELL, I'VE TAKEN YOU TO EVERY GUEST ROOM WE HAVE, SIR, AND I'M AFRAID THIS IS THE SMALLEST IN THE MANOR.
MAY I GET YOU SOME TEA? OR, UM...WASH YOUR CLOTHES?
NO TEA. CLOTHES ARE FINE. BUT...
YES?
YOU MADE THOSE PANCAKES?
GOOD PANCAKES.
HAPPY TO WHIP UP SOME MORE.
IF YOU THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE, PICK UP THE PHONE AND PRESS THE INTERCOM.
AND AS MASTER WAYNE SAID...MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
HOME...
15

FEEL WRONG. OUT OF PLACE.
SURROUNDED BY YULE MARBLE AND CLIVE CHRISTIAN.
ROOM COST MORE THAN CITY BLOCK I GREW UP ON.
BUT NEED TO GET CLEAN. SHOOK HANDS WITH VEIDT AFTER WHAT HE DID...
NEED TO WASH IT OFF.
NNT.
WASH IT ALL OFF.
"HE'S DEAD."
16


DIDN'T TAKE ME TO SEE THAT.
VICTIM'S BLOOD FLOWS ACROSS THE FLOOR LIKE A RIVER. A KNIGHT STANDING ON ITS BANKS.
BUT THE BLOOD DOESN'T BELONG TO ONE MAN.
TWO DEAD. NO WITNESSES. NO EVIDENCE. NO SUSPECTS.
THAT'S WHY LT. MURRAY ABRAHAMS CAME TO MY OFFICE TONIGHT.
MURRAY WASN'T PARTICULARLY GOOD AT HIS JOB, BUT HE WAS AN HONEST MAN IN A DEPARTMENT WHERE IT DIDN'T PAY TO BE.
...OLDER GUY OWNS THIS PLACE. ALASTAIR TEMPUS. RETIRED BANKER. WIDOWER. THREE GROWN KIDS, ALL LIVE UPSTATE.
SECOND GUY THERE... BENTLEY FARMER...HE'S MY BROTHER-IN-LAW. LIVES RIGHT NEXT DOOR. CITY PLANNER. DIVORCED. NO KIDS.
NEVER LIKED HIM MUCH, TO BE HONEST, BIT OF A KNOW-IT-ALL, BUT...POOR GUY. AND MY WIFE. GOD, I CAN'T TELL HER. NOT ON CHRISTMAS EVE...
MURRAY WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SPOKE TO ME AFTER I'D HAD ENOUGH HYPOCRISY AND TURNED IN MY BADGE.
CAN YOU HELP ME, NATE?
STILL. I WOULDN'T CALL HIM A FRIEND.
I DON'T WORK FOR FREE, MURRAY...
WILL YOU STOP IT!
...VIOLENT EXPLOSION IN BERLIN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO BE TERRORISM IS NOW SAID TO HAVE BEEN AN ATTEMPT BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO CREATE THEIR OWN METAHUMANS...
GIVE ME THE REMOTE BACK!
...WILD HUNSTMAN, ONE OF THE FEW KNOWN GERMAN "SUPER HEROES," WAS SPOTTED FLEEING THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING...

"NO ONE ELSE INSIDE IS EXPECTED TO HAVE SURVIVED."
HOW MANY OF GOTHAM'S CAPED CRUSADERS DOES IT TAKE TO SCREW IN A LIGHT BULB?
NONE! THEY LIKE THE DARK!
BAR
JUMPING JACK'S
HEY, NOW! IT WASN'T THAT BA...
AAAA!
AHAHAHAHAHA
'BOUT TIME WE LAUGHED AT SOMETHIN'!
WELL, THIS PLACE SOUNDS LIVELY.
I WAS HOPING FOR SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE...RUSTIC, BUT IT'LL WORK.
TWO WHISKEYS!
OH.
PLEASE.
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN'? YOU CAN'T WEAR MAKEUP IN HERE.
BOSS DON' LIKE IT.
BOSS?
YEAH.
THIS IS THE JOKER'S TURF.
THE JOKER?
WHO'S THE JOKER?
18


WHAT'D SHE SAY?

YOU DON'T ALL NEED TO STAND UP. WE JUST WANT A DRINK.

YOU DISRESPECT THE BOSS LIKE THAT, I'LL CUT A SMILE IN YOUR PRETTY FACE.

WHAT THE SHIT?
HE'S POINTIN' AT YOU. HA HA HA.

YOU FOR REAL, DOUCHEBAG?

YOU KNOW, MAYBE I'LL CARVE THE SMILE SOMEWHERE MORE INTERESTING.
WHAT DO YOU S...

HOLY JESUS!
GET HIM! G...
WHAT THE HELL'S IN HIS HAN...
DD
GGFF
PULLING OUT THE KNIVES NOW? OH, BABY...

I WANT TO PLAY, TOO.
EEEYY
EEIIIAAA
AWW...
HNNHH
YOU'VE GOT PRETTY EYES.

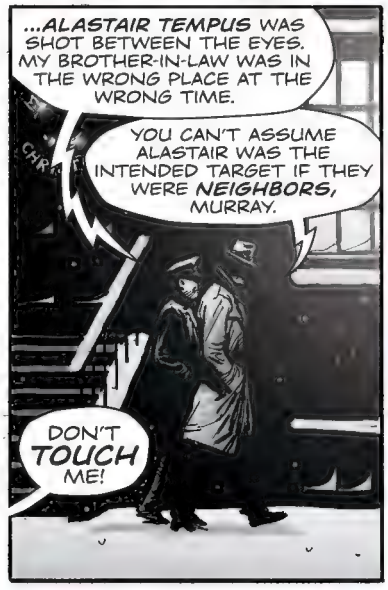
THAT WAS A TRIP...
A TOAST... TO FINDING OUR BOY...
LINDBE
WHISK
EST. 1932
45% ALC/VO
...WEEEEEEOOP!
AND TO STRETCHING OUR LEGS...
EXIT
BAR
HOW ABOUT WE STRETCH THEM A LITTLE MORE?
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO FIND THIS "JOKER"?

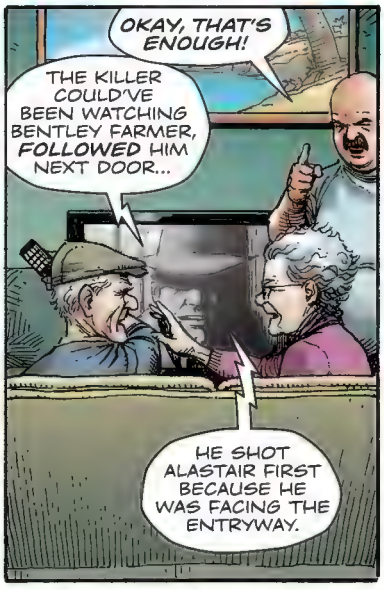
...LEX LUTHOR IS IN SURGERY AT METROPOLIS GENERAL WHERE HIS ATTACKER REMAINS IN SERIOUS BUT STABLE CONDITION.
MANY BELIEVE THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS IN RESPONSE TO LUTHOR'S ANTI-METAHUMAN POSITION AND LEXCORP'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF METAGENE DETECTORS.

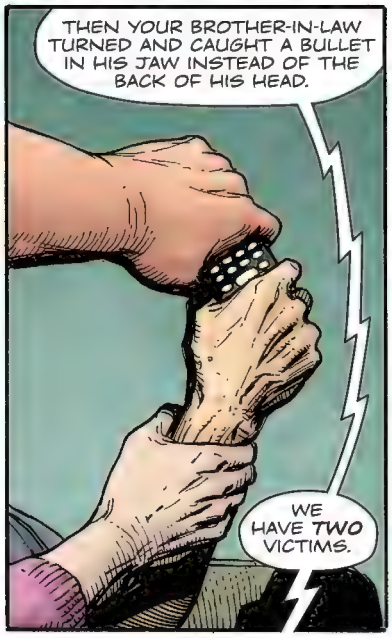
THE DETECTORS ARE ALREADY BEING INSTALLED IN AIRPORTS ACROSS THE WORLD...
GOOD! IT'LL FINALLY BE SAFE TO TRAVEL AGAIN!
YOU NEVER GO ANYWHERE ANYWAY.

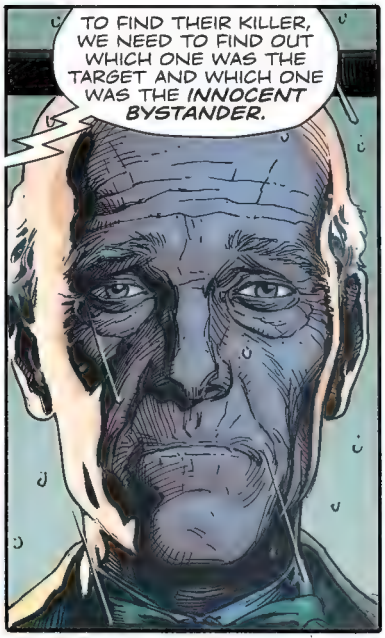
...PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF USING THE METAGENE DETECTORS ON ITS OWN POPULACE.
SIMILAR OPERATIONS ARE BEING REPORTED IN ISRAEL, RUSSIA AND QURAC IN WHAT IS BEING CALLED THE BEGINNINGS OF A METAHUMAN ARMS RACE...

YOU'RE BEHAVING LIKE A CHILD!


...ALASTAIR TEMPUS WAS SHOT BETWEEN THE EYES. MY BROTHER-IN-LAW WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.
YOU CAN'T ASSUME ALASTAIR WAS THE INTENDED TARGET IF THEY WERE NEIGHBORS, MURRAY.
DON'T TOUCH ME!


OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH!
THE KILLER COULD'VE BEEN WATCHING BENTLEY FARMER, FOLLOWED HIM NEXT DOOR...
HE SHOT ALASTAIR FIRST BECAUSE HE WAS FACING THE ENTRYWAY.


THEN YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW TURNED AND CAUGHT A BULLET IN HIS JAW INSTEAD OF THE BACK OF HIS HEAD.
WE HAVE TWO VICTIMS.


TO FIND THEIR KILLER, WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHICH ONE WAS THE TARGET AND WHICH ONE WAS THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

HERE IT IS.
JEEZ, NATE. I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS.
I TOLD YOU, MURRAY, I DON'T WORK FOR FREE.

YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO FIND HEARTACHE INSIDE, NATE.
MAYBE...
YOU STAY HERE.
STAY HERE?! IT'S FREEZING. AND THE WIFE IS GONNA KILL ME IF I DON'T GET HOME SOON. WE STILL NEED TO WRAP THE KIDS' PRESENTS...
TEN MINUTES. KEEP A LOOKOUT. ANY FELLOW COPS SHOW UP, SHOO THEM AWAY.
COPS ARE WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT?
MURRAY'S SMARTER THAN I GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR SOMETIMES.
EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT THE PRICE ON YOUR HEAD...
...I CAN SEE THE NOOSE AROUND YOUR NECK FROM HERE.
AND NOW LOOK AT YOU. BREAKING AND ENTERING...
I'M NOT BREAKING AND ENTERING, MURRAY...
JOYCE GAVE ME A KEY.
I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE SINCE THE DAY JOYCE'S EX KILLED HER.
IT'S SO EMPTY WITHOUT HER AND THE KIDS.
JOYCE'S GRANDPARENTS TOOK JENNIE AND ANTHONY AND NEVER LOOKED BACK.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME BACK EITHER.
BUT IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE AND I CAN'T HELP MYSELF...
To Nate, Merry Christmas! Love Joyce. X
WHATEVER'S IN THIS BOX...IT'S ALL I HAVE LEFT OF THE GREATEST LOVE OF MY LIFE...
24

"THERE'S NOTHING ELSE BUT MEMORIES."
...CONTINUED SPECULATION THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS RETREATED TO NORAD'S CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN COMPLEX AS TANKS AMASS IN EASTERN GERMANY...
JESUS. IT'S REALLY HAPPENING... I GOTTA GET HOME TO MOM AND DAD...
...THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA ARE ON AN UNAVOIDABLE COLLISION COURSE...
OH, GREAT.
YOU HIT ME, YOU IDIOT!
NO, YOU HIT ME!
...NO SIGN OF DR. MANHATTAN IN OUR GREATEST HOUR OF N...
ZZZZZZZZZZZ
EEEYYYAAAA
AAAAAA!
IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE SAFE.
WUH... WHERE AM...
YOU SLEPT FOR ALMOST 24 HOURS.
I READ YOUR BOOK.
READ...KOVACS' JOURNAL?
YES.
AND I KNOW WHERE DR. MANHATTAN IS.
25

"I RAN A SEARCH FOR TEMPORAL ANOMALIES. AND I FOUND ONE. IN A PLACE CALLED ARKHAM ASYLUM.
"ANY IDEA WHY HE WOULD BE THERE?"
"MAYBE FORGOT. LOST MIND... DON'T KNOW."
"LET'S GO SEE."

CHRIST, THAT WAS QUICK.
YEAH, HATTER'S IN. HATTER'S OUT. HATTER'S BACK IN. YOU KNOW THE DRILL, RINSE AND REPEAT...
WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING IN THERE?
OH. THEY'RE RUNNIN' THE NATHANIEL DUSK PICTURES NONSTOP. LOVED THEM WHEN I WAS A KID.

THEY'RE PLAYIN' MY FAVORITE ONE AGAIN. THESE TWO GUYS IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME OF CHESS, MURDERED...
I TELL MURRAY HE'S GOT ME FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS. THROUGH CHRISTMAS DAY...
THERE'S THIS BIG TWIST, WHERE ONE OF THE DEAD GUYS TURNS OUT TO BE A KILLER, TOO...

HEY, DON'T SPOIL IT, JOE. I'LL WATCH IT MYSELF!

FOLLOW MY LEAD.
STAY CLOSE.

NOW.

HHN.

DOWN HERE. THE SIGNAL'S GETTING **STRONGER.**
WHERE DO YOU, MM...GET EQUIPMENT? COMPACT. WONDERED IF...SPARE SOME...
I SUPPOSE I...

**HERE.** HE'S IN...

MANHATTAN ...

DR. OSTERMAN?
NEED TO TALK...

...HELLO?

WE'RE ALL MAD HERE

WUH...

NO.

I'M SORRY.
BUT YOU BELONG IN HERE.

NO NO NO NO!

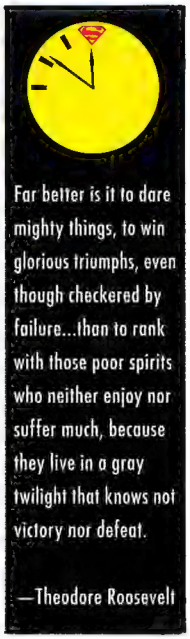
KILL YOU FOR THIS!
CUT OUT EYES!

WAIT. APOLOGIZE... OPEN DOOR.
PLEASE... LET...

LET ME OUT...

LET ME OUT OF HERE!

LET!
ME!
OUT!
28


Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure...than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.
—Theodore Roosevelt

The Smear Campaign Against Norma Desmond!

SEE PAGE 22

UNCENSORED AND NAMING NAMES!

# Screenland Secrets

25¢

October

SEE PAGE 18

**SHOCKING BIRTH!**
Does Frank Farr have a secret love child?

## INSIDE THE MURDER INVESTIGATION OF CARVER COLMAN!

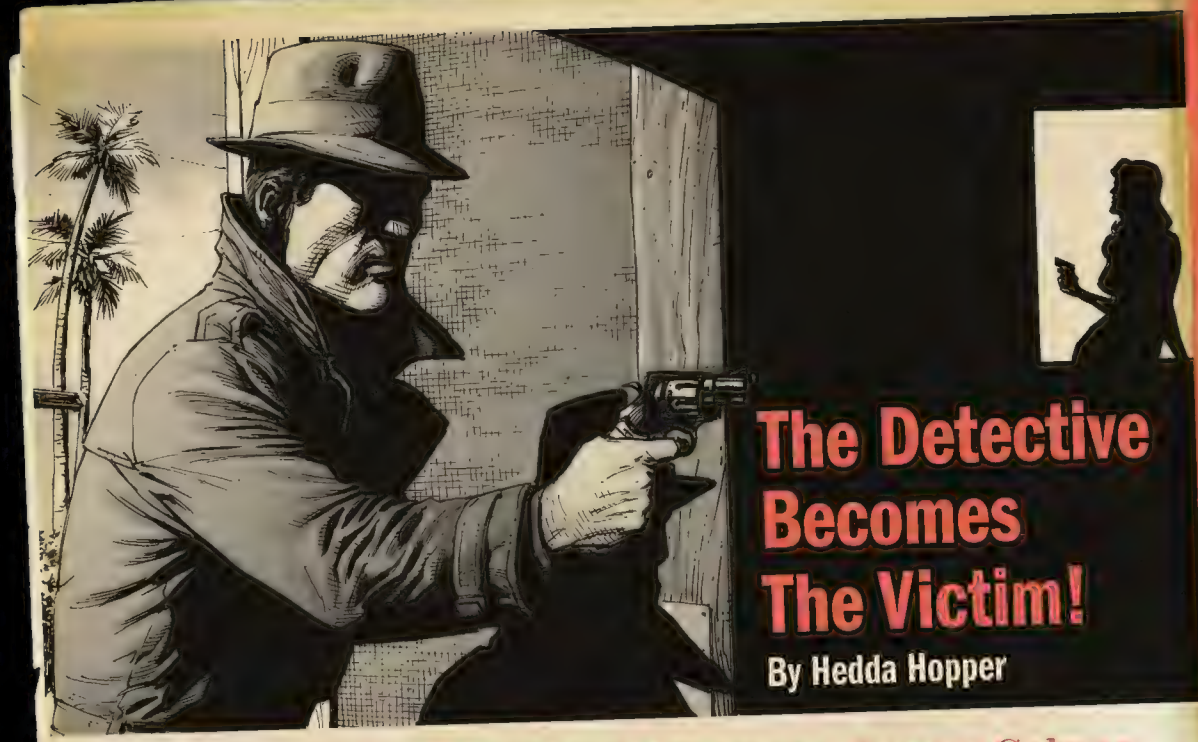
The Story Hollywood Doesn't Want Us To Print!

SEE PAGE 3

## DEATH IN BEVERLY HILLS!

**I DO...I THINK!**

SEE PAGE 13



# The Detective Becomes The Victim!

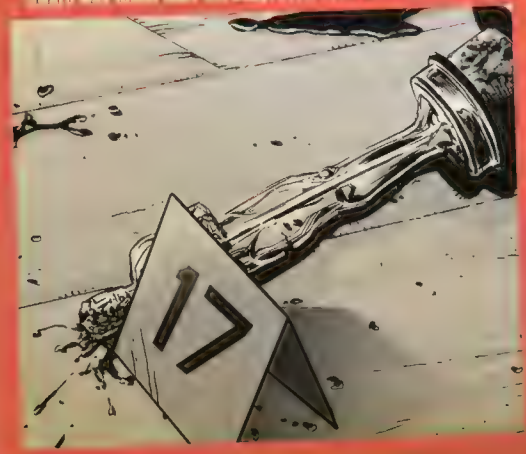
By Hedda Hopper

**An actor at the height of his career, Carver Colman, the beloved star of the Nathaniel Dusk pictures, kept his private life secret for a reason.**

In the early hours of June 9, Carver Colman's body was found on the floor of his living room by his housekeeper. He had been out at Tam O'Shanter's for dinner the night before, celebrating the completion of "The Adjournment" with friends, including director Jacques Tourneur and studio heads Albert and Karl Verner, only to be discovered hours later, brutally beaten to death. The murder weapon? The award Colman won for his work in "Lovers Die at Dusk." The only thing missing from his body was a watch he always wore, given to him by his parents the day he left home. Other details surrounding the bloody crime were kept confidential by the Beverly Hills Police Department to "protect their investigation." But months later, Carver Colman's murder remains unsolved. His name seems destined to join the likes of William Desmond Taylor and Elizabeth Short…or does it?

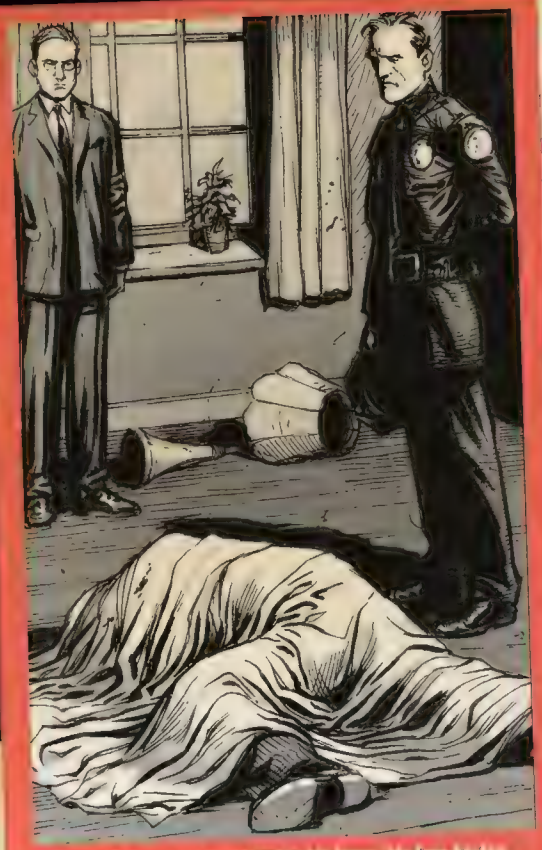
"Screenland Secrets" has uncovered shocking evidence pointing to a secret in Carver Colman's past that you can believe his Studio would have been desperate to keep hidden at any cost! In fact, Verner Bros collected millions of dollars in insurance because of Carver Colman's death...

Carver Colman was the only son of Irish immigrants who settled in Merillville, Indiana. Colman told stories of working his family's farm while dreaming of starring in the pictures his father often took him to. Colman once said, "I saw 'In Old Arizona' on Christmas Day in '28 and I was mesmerized. I packed up some clothes and left Merillville the next morning." He arrived in Hollywood on New Year's Eve. Colman eventually landed a handful of small roles in various pictures, but it was his performance as a drifter alongside Gary Cooper in "The Westerner" in 1940 that led to him being cast as Nathaniel Dusk. Despite the controversy surrounding "Nothing Left to Lose," the first Nathaniel Dusk picture became a hit and transformed Carver Colman into a household name. However, Colman kept his personal life private. He claimed he enjoyed a quiet life outside of work, gardening and collecting watches. But Colman's "life" may have been as false as the sets he filmed on. We've learned that after Colman's death, the police were unable to locate his parents or the farm he claimed he grew up on. And then weeks into the investigation, police made a shocking discovery within Colman's home in Beverly Hills: a secret room in Colman's house! The walls were filled with clocks, his extensive watch collection on display. And in the center of this secret "ticktock room" was a desk overflowing with papers and documents. One in particular stood out to police. It was a letter from a woman claiming to be Carver Colman's actual mother–a retired dancer from Philadelphia named Charlotte Colman who had once been associated with the Sabella crime family. She was attempting to blackmail her "son" for money, but she disappeared shortly after. So was this woman really Colman's mother? Was Carver Colman tied to the Sabella crime family? Or was this all a blackmail scam gone wrong? Did he refuse to pay and pay the price? Detective Bruce Nelson, a specialist called down from the San Francisco Police Department to review the case, suspects Albert and Karl Verner know more than they've said…but they aren't spilling any more secrets. Yet!



Carver Colman was murdered in his home, his face beaten until it was unrecognizable by even his closest friends.





Carver Colman was murdered in his home, his face beaten until it was unrecognizable by even his closest friends.

## NOT FOR THE CHILDREN!

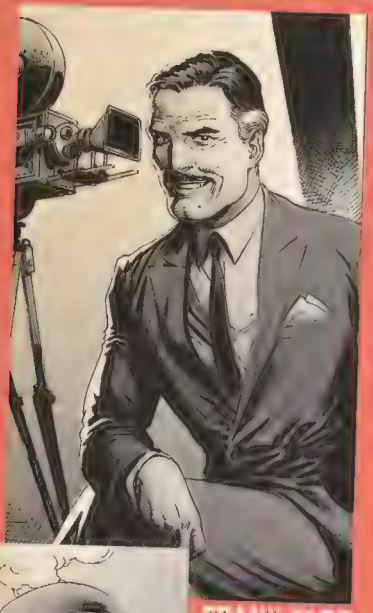
Carver Colman's controversial Nathaniel Dusk pictures may have been some of the most successful films to have come from Warner Bros Studios, but many also call them an example of the morally destitute society of Hollywood.

*Nothing Left to Lose* (1943)
Produced by Robert Skolnick, the first Dusk picture starred Colman as a young lawyer who, like Dusk and countless other characters, was pulled into a private investigation following their father's murder and ongoing police corruption.

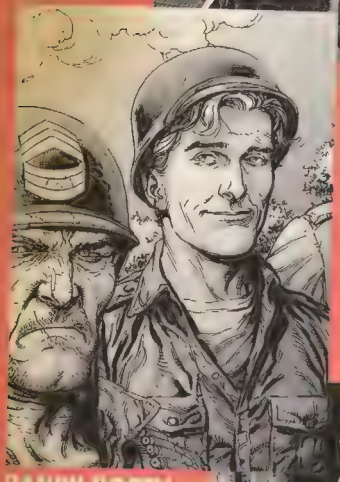
*A Killer Calls* (1943)
Released by Orbit Productions, the second film in the Dusk series was banned in several States for its depiction of homosexuality. Hollywood knows a lot about it!

*Murder at Noon* (1943)
Director Jules Dassin-Thomas was one of the many Blacklisted directors in the Dusk series, which featured Frank Tuttle as Dusk's fellow army veteran who is suspected of killing their former officer. Tuttle, during his interview with the House Committee on Un-American Activities, was questioning by the

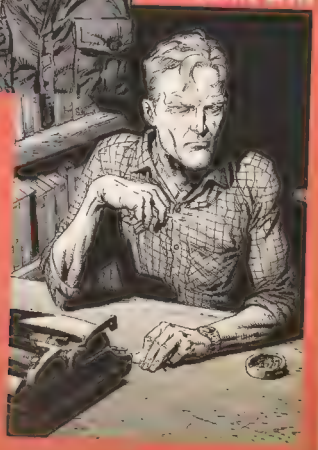
# COAST TO COAST Secrets



FRANK FARR



RANDY BOOTH



JOHN LAW

**THE RUMOR:** Frank Farr strayed from his marriage to Barbara Stanwyck and is now the new father of a secret love child!

**THE FACT:** Memo to maidens: *Beware!* It's definitely true! Frank Farr, the star of last year's smash hit "Another Holiday Affair," was seen nine months ago at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas with actress Rachel Drake on his arm. Rumors swirled, but Frank insisted they were just friends. Then last week, Rachel gave birth to a new baby girl named Rita, telling close family and friends it was indeed Frank's daughter. Barbara Stanwyck filed for divorce the day Rita Farr was born.

* * *

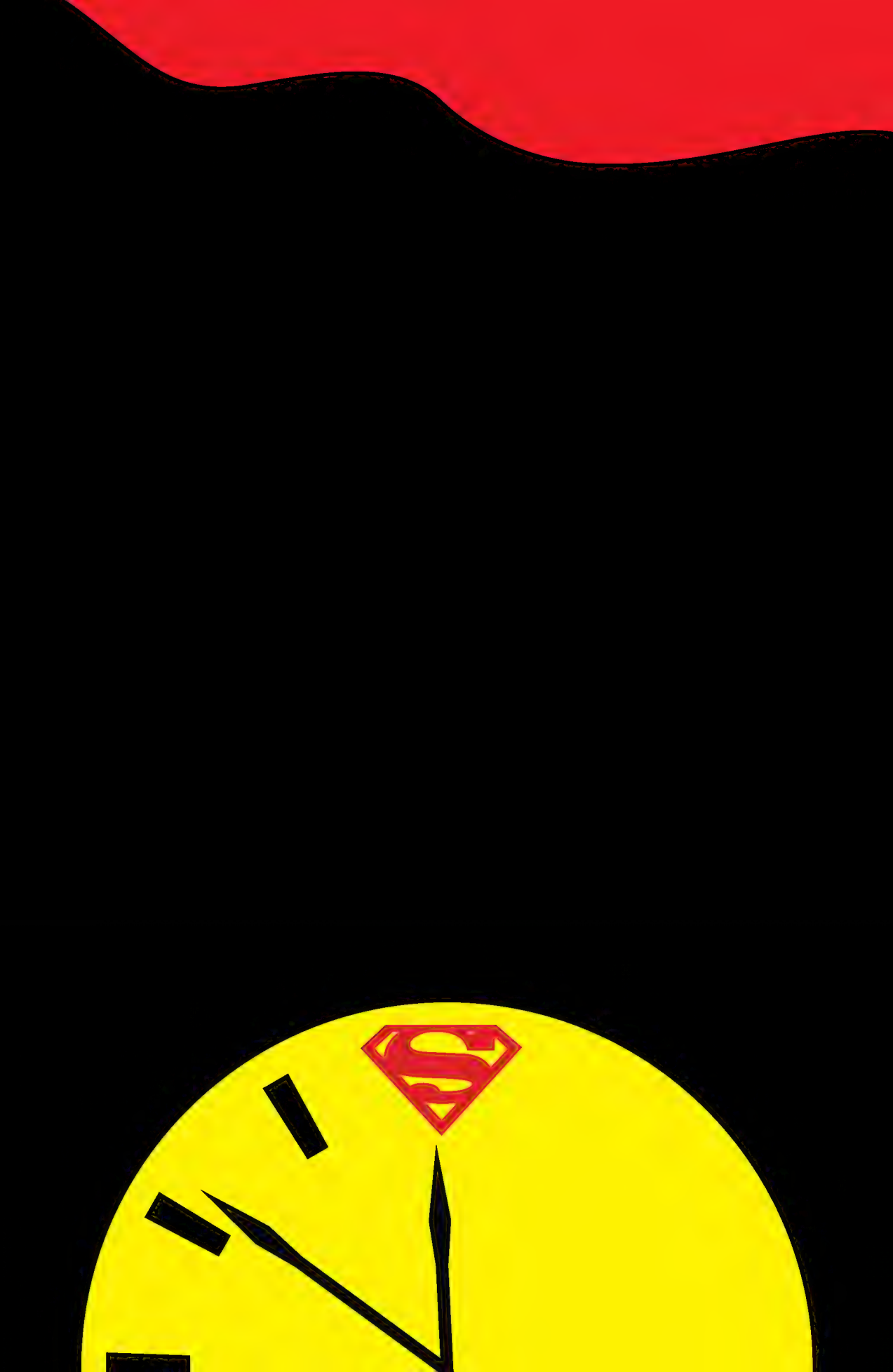
**THE RUMOR:** Randy "Tin Soldier" Booth was thrown out of Jackie Johnson's wedding!

**THE FACT:** It's true...for the most part! Jackie's fellow war vets from Easy Company were all in attendance in Beverly Hills last Sunday to celebrate the ex-heavyweight champion's third marriage! Yes, third! But when Jackie requested a moment of silence to honor Easy Company's fallen leader and war hero, Sgt. Frank Rock, Randy "Tin Soldier" Booth – a moderately successful actor from several drama pictures in the 30's – interrupted the proceedings, arguing with Jackie about Frank Rock's death and a conspiracy tied to it. It took several of the attendees, including boxing champion Ted Grant, to restrain Booth so that the ceremony could proceed. Currently, Booth is undergoing treatment at Walter Reed General Hospital for Combat stress reaction.

* * *

**THE RUMOR:** Screenwriter John Law is the prime suspect in Carver Colman's murder!

**THE FACT:** It's true that John Law, the Academy Award nominated screenwriter, was questioned by police in the days after Carver Colman's murder, but he was never on the suspect list due to an airtight alibi: John was in the drunk tank the night of Colman's death! Following his break-up with his wife, former Olympian Libby Lawrence, John had been on a bender across Hollywood. The night Carver Colman was murdered, John was at the Formosa on Santa Monica Blvd. buying round after round. He was on his way home to Hancock Park when he crashed into a street lamp and was arrested.



2017
BA

SYRUP GLISTENS. SEEPS INTO BUTTER-SOAKED FLAPJACKS STACKED HIGH. SILVER FORK WITH INITIALS ON END WAITS TO BE PICKED UP.
I SEE WHAT I WANT TO SEE.
BUT PLATE SMELLS OF BLEACH AND SWEAT-SOAKED RAGS.
THERE IS NO FORK.
THERE ARE NO PANCAKES.
WHAT ARE YOU STARIN' AT? MOVE IT!
NEXT!
JOEY KENNEDY LIVED ACROSS STREET. YELLED SLURS. STOLE LUNCH MONEY. MADE ME EAT HANDFUL OF WORMS.
EVEN CHEWED UP, THEY WIGGLED DOWN THROAT. PIECES STILL WIGGLING WHEN I THREW THEM UP.
NEVER FOUGHT BACK.
NEVER THOUGHT TO.
NEVER SAW SELF AS FIGHTER.
FISHHH...
DEE AND DUM ARE WATCHIN' YOU. THEY'LL GO FOR YOU. WON'T BE AS GENTLE AS ME...
YOU SIT WITH ME... YOU EAT WITH ME...YOU BE WITH ME...
...I PROTECT YOU.
I PROTECT MY PROPERTY.
WAS FIVE YEARS OLD THE FIRST TIME I SAW A MUSHROOM CLOUD.
1

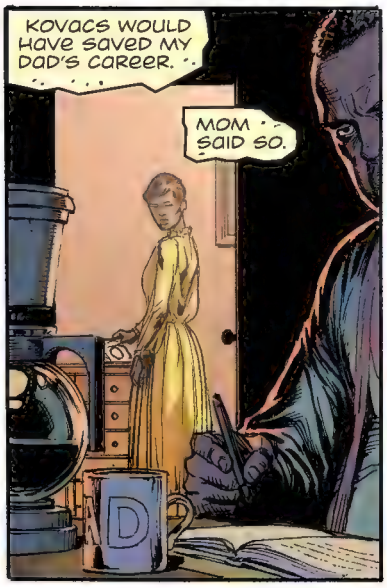
...BREZHNEV SAID THE TESTS WERE IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO DR. MANHATTAN'S ENTRANCE INTO VIETNAM, WARNING THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL HIS WITHDRAWAL...
ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT NIXON BELIEVES THE VIETCONG'S SURRENDER IS NOW A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, MANY ARE QUESTIONING THE FALLOUT FROM SENDING DR. MANHATTAN INTO AN ACTIVE WAR ZONE...
...WHILE OTHERS ARE CALLING FOR AMERICA'S SUPER DETERRENT TO VISIT MOSCOW NEXT...
WE SHOULD MOVE, MAL...
I DON'T KNOW...
MOVE? TO WHERE?
YOU DON'T WANT TO MOVE, DO YOU, REGGIE? YOU LOVE THE YANKEES!
I DON'T LIKE BASEBALL.
DON'T, MAL.
GLORIA, I'M CLOSE TO MAKING A REAL NAME FOR MYSELF. ONCE I DO THAT, I CAN GO WRITE MY BOOKS AND WE CAN LIVE ANYWHERE YOU WANT.
BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO GROW THIS FAMILY...
WE ARE GOING TO GROW IT. AS SOON AS I GET PUBLISHED, LIKE WE AGREED.
BUT...OH GOD, MAL, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE WORLD?
THESE ARE SCARY TIMES, I KNOW...
BUT IT WILL GET BETTER. IT WILL BE OKAY...
DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
YES. YES, YOU KNOW I ALWAYS DO...
I was an only child. . .
GOOD ONE. DIDN'T ARGUE. NO TROUBLE.
BUT GRADES AVERAGE. NO CLOSE FRIENDS. BAD WITH GIRLS. . .
NOT VERY SOCIAL.
SPENT MOST OF TIME WITH MOM WHILE DAD WORKED.
2

never comfortable meeting new people.
AAAAAA!
joey kennedy made me eat worms.
never fought back.
never thought to. . .
we asked HECTOR GODFREY, THE FRONTIERSMAN'S EDITOR, IF HE HAD ANY COMMENT...
MMMMMM
OH, YES, BABY...
FRANKLY, ISN'T IT TIME WE REASSESSED RORSCHACH, AS A PATRIOT AND AN AMERICAN?
OHHHHH
DO YOU MIND?
CAN YOU, LIKE, FIND ANOTHER ROOM, JOSH? THIS PAPER'S DUE TOMORROW...
FOLLOWING A TENSE BAIL HEARING, KOVACS AWAITS TRIAL, PENDING A PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION.
DR. MALCOLM LONG, CARRYING OUT THE EVALUATION, HAS HIS FIRST INTERVIEW WITH KOVACS THIS AFTERNOON.
HEY! ISN'T THAT YOUR DAD?
THAT'S YOUR DAD?
HE TOLD PRESSMEN HE FELT "CONFIDENT AND OPTIMISTIC."
DAD SAID WE'RE ALL SEARCHING FOR ENLIGHTENMENT. . .
3

PURPOSE.
MEANING.
answers.
JONES, W
JONES, WAYLON
"WHY AM I HERE?"
4

WHY ARE WE ARGUING ABOUT THIS? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME, MOM?
KIDS. PROTESTING THE PRESIDENT, I GUESS. OR DR. MANHATTAN. I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
NO HUMAN A-BOMB
WHERE'S DAD...
HE'S BUSY WORKING THIS KOVACS CASE, BUT IT'S GREAT FOR YOUR FATHER, REGGIE. IT'S A REAL OPPORTUNITY.
EVERYTHING I'VE READ ABOUT THIS GUY... RORSCHACH...
THE NEWS, THE PAPERS...HONEY, THEY HAVE IT ALL WRONG. YOUR FATHER'S MAKING REAL PROGRESS WITH THIS POOR MAN. THEY... THEY'VE EVEN BECOME FRIENDS.
FRIENDS?

DON'T WORRY. HE'S FINE. EVERYTHING'S FINE.
OKAY, MOM...BUT YOU DON'T SOUND...
I HAVE TO GO NOW. I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, TOO...


KOVACS WOULD HAVE SAVED MY DAD'S CAREER.
MOM SAID SO.

BUT WORLD WENT TO SHIT.
LIVE BY THE BOMB
DIE BY THE BOMB

PSYCH 101 - CANCELLED

AND RORSCHACH ESCAPED.

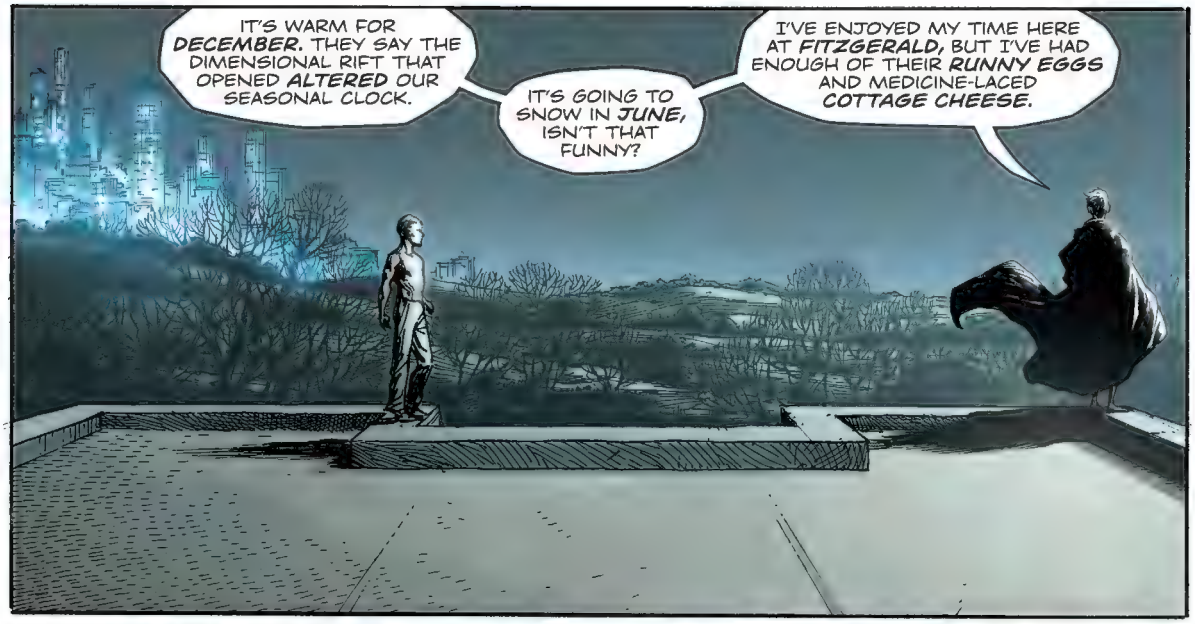
"...CONTINUED SPECULATION THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS RETREATED TO NORAD'S CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN COMPLEX AS TANKS AMASS IN EASTERN GERMANY..."
5

...THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA ARE ON AN UNAVOIDABLE COLLISION COURSE...
YOU HIT ME, YOU IDIOT!
NO, YOU HIT ME!
TAXI
801
...NO SIGN OF DR. MANHATTAN IN OUR GREATEST HOUR OF N...
ZZZZZZZZZZ
EEEYYYAAAA
AAAAA!
LET ME OUT...
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
...NO, YOU DON'T NEED TO COME IN. I'LL BE FINE...
GOOD AFTERNOON. I'M DR. MATTHEW MASON. YOU CAN CALL ME DR. MASON OR MATTHEW, WHATEVER YOU PREFER.
I HEAR YOUR FIRST DAY IN ARKHAM HAS BEEN RATHER UNPLEASANT...
6

I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
OH, I ASSUMED THAT...MR. DOE OR JOHN OR...
THERE ARE SO MANY MR. AND MRS. DOES IN HERE. MIGHT YOU TELL ME YOUR REAL NAME?
YOUR FINGERPRINTS, DENTAL AND DNA MATCH NO RECORDS OF ANY KIND... ALL WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT YOU IS THAT THE BATMAN BROUGHT YOU HERE...AND LOCKED YOU AWAY.
CAN YOU TELL ME A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE BATMAN?
HOW DID YOU MEET HIM?
NO.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CAN'T BE LOCKED UP AGAIN.
NNN...
BAD PLACE. BAD MEMORIES.
SIR? SIR?! CAN YOU MOVE AWAY FROM THE GLASS?
HE CAN'T HEAR YOU.
EVERYONE STEP BACK!
MILLIONS DIED BECAUSE OF VEIDT'S NIGHTMARE.
THOUSANDS SURVIVED.
EEEEEYYYYAAAAA
TAXI
801
WHEN WE WISH WE HADN'T.
7

american institutions overflowed. minds snapped, driven mad.
AAAUUU
pregnant woman cut out unborn baby, believing it was eating her. man severed legs wanting to be like creature.
I tried to gouge out eyes.
NUH-NO... PLEASE...
stop seeing the dead.
day.
HOLD HIM!
night.
EEEyYYYAAA!
day.
WE'RE GOING TO UP THE DOSAGE, MR. LONG...THESE GOVERNMENT DOCTORS NEED YOU CALM...
every time I shut my eyes, saw them.
clawing for me.
WHAT DID YOU DO, REGGIE?
nearly broke arm trying to get free.
pain on top of grief unbearable.
had to escape it.
8

never saw self as fighter.
AAAARRRR
AHGFFFF
AHNFFFF
FF...
HI.
NICE NIGHT FOR IT.


IT'S WARM FOR DECEMBER. THEY SAY THE DIMENSIONAL RIFT THAT OPENED ALTERED OUR SEASONAL CLOCK.
IT'S GOING TO SNOW IN JUNE, ISN'T THAT FUNNY?
I'VE ENJOYED MY TIME HERE AT FITZGERALD, BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THEIR RUNNY EGGS AND MEDICINE-LACED COTTAGE CHEESE.

YOU'RE JUMPING, TOO...
JUMPING?
OH NO...

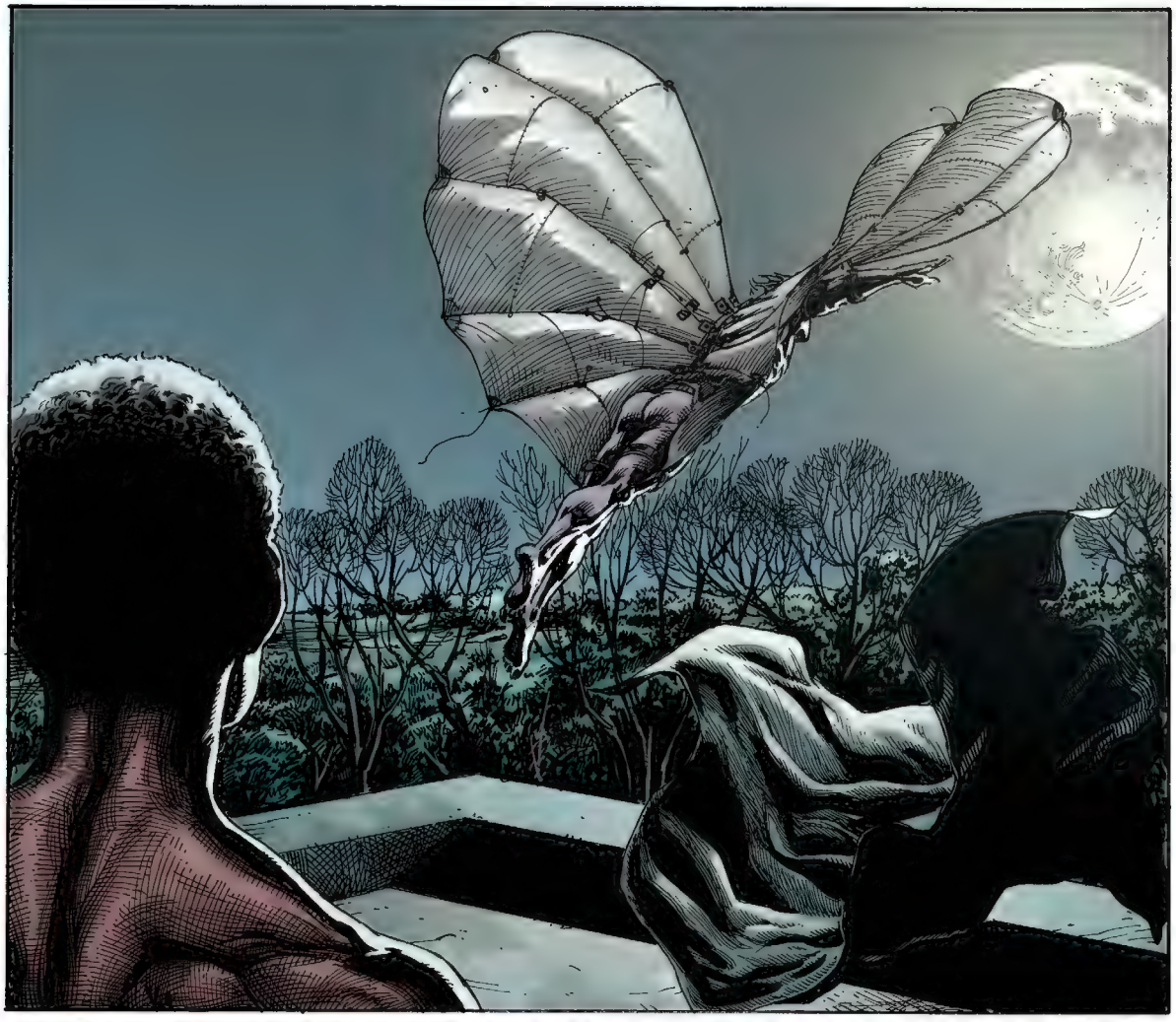
I CAN FLY.

THEY SAID I COULDN'T...
...BUT I WORKED HARD AND LONG...
...AND I LEARNED THE SECRET OF FLIGHT, YOU SEE...

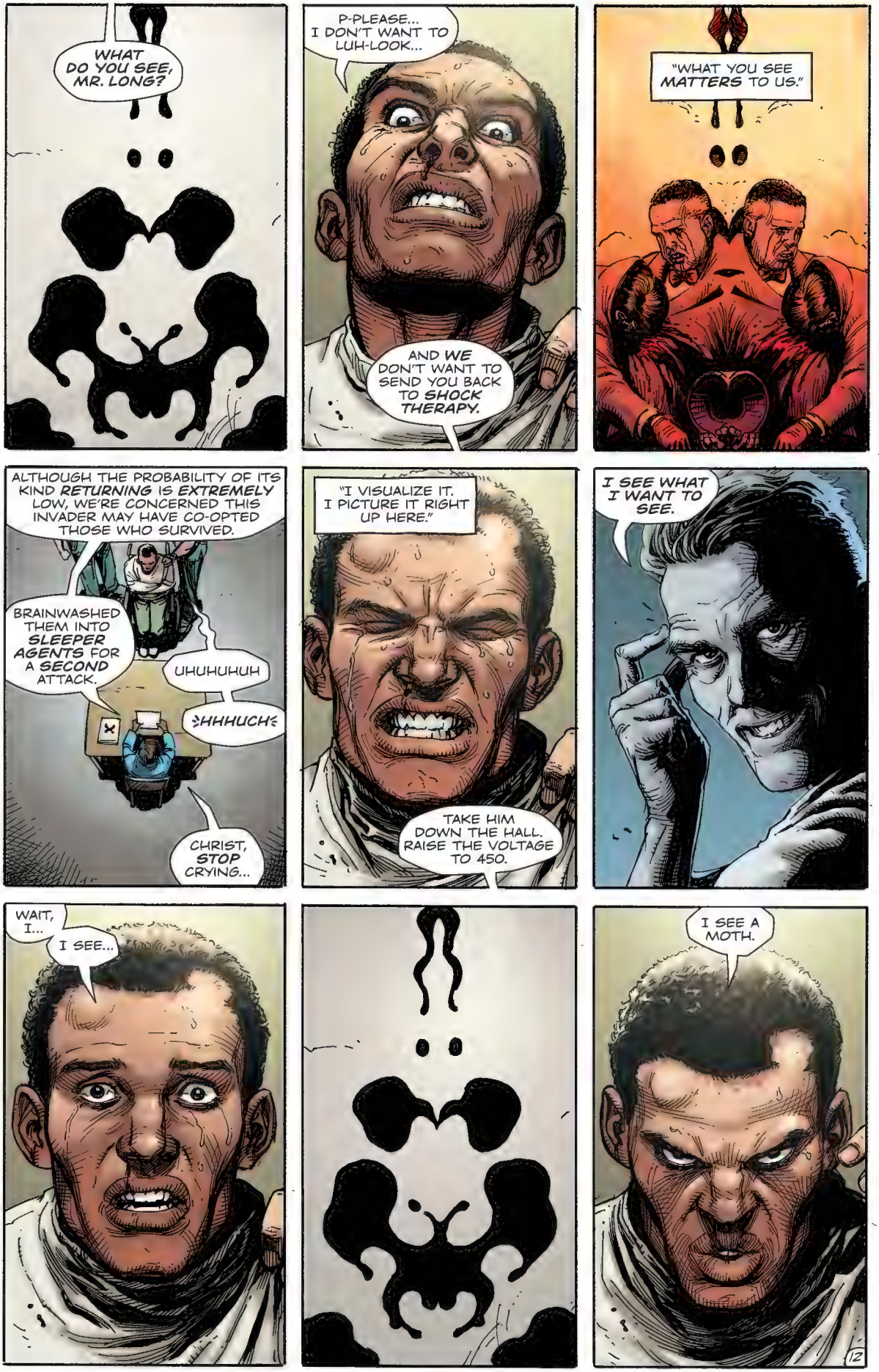
I VISUALIZE IT. I PICTURE IT RIGHT UP HERE.
I SEE WHAT I WANT TO SEE.
AND WHAT I SEE IS WHAT IS.

WELL, THEN...

I'M OFF!



# WALK ON WATER


WHAT DO YOU SEE, MR. LONG?
P-PLEASE... I DON'T WANT TO LUH-LOOK...
AND WE DON'T WANT TO SEND YOU BACK TO SHOCK THERAPY.
"WHAT YOU SEE MATTERS TO US."
ALTHOUGH THE PROBABILITY OF ITS KIND RETURNING IS EXTREMELY LOW, WE'RE CONCERNED THIS INVADER MAY HAVE CO-OPTED THOSE WHO SURVIVED.
BRAINWASHED THEM INTO SLEEPER AGENTS FOR A SECOND ATTACK.
UHUHUHUH
>HHHUCH<
CHRIST, STOP CRYING...
"I VISUALIZE IT. I PICTURE IT RIGHT UP HERE."
TAKE HIM DOWN THE HALL. RAISE THE VOLTAGE TO 450.
I SEE WHAT I WANT TO SEE.
WAIT, I...
I SEE...
I SEE A MOTH.
12

SUNNY SIDE UP
DINER
MOTH FLEW TO DINER.
ORDERED EGGS ON SOURDOUGH TOAST.
WEARING NOTHING BUT WINGS.

...ADRIAN VEIDT HAS PROPOSED AN UNPRECEDENTED RELIEF PROGRAM FOR NOT ONLY NEW YORK, BUT ALL WAR-TORN AREAS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...
NO MORE WAR, BETTY. WOULDN'T JACK BE HAPPY?

...EARLIER TODAY AN UNEXPECTED AND HISTORIC MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND PRESIDENT GORBACHEV AT VEIDT ENTERPRISES
EXCUSE ME, I...
ONE MINUTE, SON. I WANT TO HEAR HIM.
HEAR WHO?

...TODAY I AM PROUD, NOT ONLY TO CALL MYSELF AMERICAN, BUT HUMAN.
THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES ARE COMMITTED TO MY PLANS FOR REBUILDING AFGHANISTAN'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFELY RELOCATING THOSE DISPLACED UNTIL SUCH REBUILDING IS COMPLETE...

ONE WORLD. ONE ACCORD.
BY THE WAY, I TOLD YOU.
HUH?
I TOLD YOU I COULD FLY.
THEY USED TO CALL ME MOTHMAN.

"WHO ARE YOU?
"LET ME REPHRASE THAT, MR. DOE...

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THE BATMAN PUT YOU IN HERE?
BLOATED, ARROGANT.
DID YOU SEEK HIM OUT OR DID HE FIND YOU?
NOTHING LIKE DAD.
WHY DO YOU WEAR THAT MASK?

GIVE HIM NOTHING.
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, MR. DOE.
NO. NEED TO GET OUT.
NEED TO FIND MANHATTAN.

COULD BE ANYONE.
OR NO ONE.
PROBABLY WATCHING NOW.
LET'S GO, DOE.
DENT
DOE TAPE
MIND TIRED. UNRELIABLE.
REGGIE? IT'S ME AGAIN.
HEAR VOICES IN HERE.
EYES SHUT AND SEE BOILED BRAINS OOZING OUT OF EARS. BODIES PILED ON BLOOD-SOAKED STREETS. REACHING OUT FOR ME.
USED TO BE A PROBLEM.
BUT LEARNED TO CHANGE IT...
...SEE WHAT I WANT TO SEE.
DAD AND MOM. HAPPY. ALIVE.

GOOD TIMES NOW GONE.
"I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...
...BUT WHEN YOU PICTURE YOUR FOLKS, YOU NEED TO SEE THEM AT THEIR BEST INSTEAD OF HOW THEY DIED.
YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHS? ANYTHING OF THEIRS?
NO... NEIGHBORHOOD. IT WAS QUARANTINED.
WELL, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO MAKE A TRIP TO NEW YORK... BRING ME YOUR SHEETS.
SHEETS?
AND ANY LOOSE BEDSPRINGS!
OVER YEARS BYRON WOULD FLY OFF.
SMUGGLE BACK CONTRABAND. LICORICE, AND SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.
REGGIE?
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
ONE NIGHT, BROUGHT EVERYTHING FROM DAD'S DESK.
"FIRST INTERVIEW WITH KOVACS... HE'S EVEN MORE DISTURBED THAN I'D HEARD...
DAD
"...BUT I'M OPTIMISTIC."

I'M TRYING TO PUT IT TOGETHER, BUT SOMETHING'S MISSING.
IT IS?
POLICE REPORTS ARE IN MY DAD'S FILES. NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL RECORDS. EVEN LETTERS WALTER KOVACS WROTE WHEN HE WAS A KID.
BUT DAD'S NOTES. ONLY A FEW PAGES FROM HIS FIRST INTERVIEW. REST ARE GONE.
SOMEONE MUST'VE STOLEN THEM.
UH, WHO WOULD DO THAT?
MOM SAID HE MADE A CONNECTION WITH KOVACS. MAYBE SOMEONE DIDN'T LIKE THAT...
MY DAD WAS A GOOD MAN.
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT?
THAT MUG YOU'RE SIPPIN' OUT OF. WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?
I...IT'S MINE.
IT'S MORE GODDAMNED CONTRABAND IS WHAT IT IS.
LET GO...
YOU KNOW THE RULES BY NOW.
I WILL BREAK YOUR HANDS!
WHAT'D YOU SAY, YOU LITTLE SHIT?
JASON, LEAVE THE BOY ALONE!
AAAAA
YOU GODDAMNED WORM!
NO!
NEXT TIME IT'S YOUR FACE.
DAD...
QUIT YOUR WHINING AND CLEAN THIS SHIT UP.
BOTH OF YOU.
16

I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT THAT, REGGIE. VERY SORRY.
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS?
HOW HARD, UM, WHAT IS?
SOME MONSTER DID IT. KILLED ALL THOSE PEOPLE. MOM AND DAD. SCRAMBLED MY M-MIND. THEN IT D-DIED AND I WAS LEFT LIKE THI...THIS...
ALL THIS ANGER INSIDE ME...
IT'S GOT NOWHERE TO GO.
SOMETIMES W-WISH I WAS A LITTLE CLOSER WHEN IT HIT.
REGGIE, DON'T SAY THAT.
LISTEN, I WAS NEVER GOOD AT CONFRONTATION. BUT I WATCHED THE OTHERS. LEARNED A THING OR TWO.
MY BODY ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE, AND NEVER WAS MUCH TO BEGIN WITH, BUT YOU?
"I SEE A FIGHTER."
...SILK SPECTRE USED DISTRACTION. THE COMEDIAN, SURPRISE...
"IT'S COMING TOGETHER.
EXCEPT I STILL CAN'T FIND THIS DARN PIECE.
HOORAY! HOORAY! AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTORS AWAY!
NOTHING'S GOING TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM YOUR RETARDED ASS, LEONARD.
WHU...
DOLLAR BILL.
SILHOUETTE.
NITE OWL.
CAPTAIN METROPOLIS.
HOODED JUSTICE.
MOTHMAN.
BYRON MADE ME INTO ONE-MAN MINUTEMEN.
EVEN TOGETHER THEY WERE NEVER GOING TO BE ENOUGH.
GET OFF OF ME!
HARD AS THEY TRIED.

WORLD NEEDED MORE.
I NEEDED MORE.
KOVACS.W
"DO YOU SEE THAT?
IT WAS STUCK UNDER THE SEAM IN THE BOTTOM OF THE BOX!
IT WAS RIGHT THERE...
RIGHT IN FRONT OF US THE WHOLE TIME.

...ADRIAN VEIDT'S UNEXPECTED ABSENCE FROM PRESIDENT REDFORD'S LATEST RALLY HAS LED SOME TO SPECULATE VEIDT WILL BE WITHDRAWING HIS SUPPORT FOR THE POLARIZING PRESIDENT.
WHILE VEIDT HIMSELF FACES CRITICISM FOR HIS WORDS AT SALLY JUPITER'S MEMORIAL...

"MISS JUPITER WASN'T A SMART WOMAN, NOR A PARTICULARLY MORAL ONE, SO I'M NOT SURE WHY SUCH A STATUE IS NECESSARY."
THEY'RE ROUNDING THEM UP.
ROUNDING THEM UP? WHO UP?
THE OTHERS. LIKE YOU. THE ONES WHO SURVIVED.
THEY'VE BEEN TRANSFERRING THEM TO A GOVERNMENT FACILITY IN D.C.

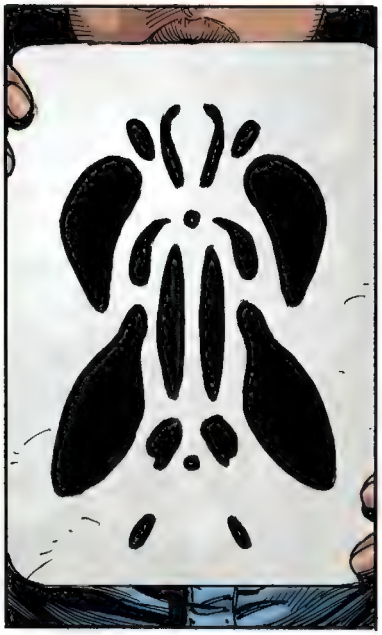
THEY WANT TO SEE IF ANYONE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT ADRIAN VEIDT.
HEY, LONG!
OUR SAVIOR?

DON'T BOTHER SITTING DOWN.
YOUR ASS IS BEING TRANSFERRED ...

GAAA!

AAAA!

IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE WE DID THIS. NOW THEN...
WHAT DO YOU SEE?



RORSCHACH.

OCTOBER 11TH, 1992. a new day. . . . a bad day.
...THEORIES ABOUT BELOVED ACTIVIST AND FORMER COSTUMED HERO ADRIAN VEIDT HAVE BEGUN GAINING TRACTION...
...SUSPECT THAT VEIDT MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DISAPPEARANCES OF DR. MANHATTAN, SILK SPECTRE, NITE OWL AND RORSCHACH...
...CLAIMING VEIDT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEW YORK CITY MASSACRE. OVER THREE MILLION WERE KILLED AND THOUSANDS MORE SUFFERED PERMANENT PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE...
...THE WHITE HOUSE REFUSES TO CONFIRM THESE ALLEGATIONS AND ASKS THAT UNTIL THERE IS CONCRETE EVIDENCE...

...ALIEN CREATURE THAT INVADED THE INSTITUTE OF INTERSPACIAL STUDIES HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM VEIDT ENTERPRISES FOR REANALYSIS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

"EVERYTHING'S CHANGED.
"I HAVE SOMEONE TO BLAME."

BUT WHY...
I STAY AND I'LL BE SHIPPED OFF TO SOME GOVERNMENT PSYCH CENTER WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD GETS THEIR HANDS ON ADRIAN VEIDT.

REGGIE?

WHAT IF HE DIDN'T DO IT?

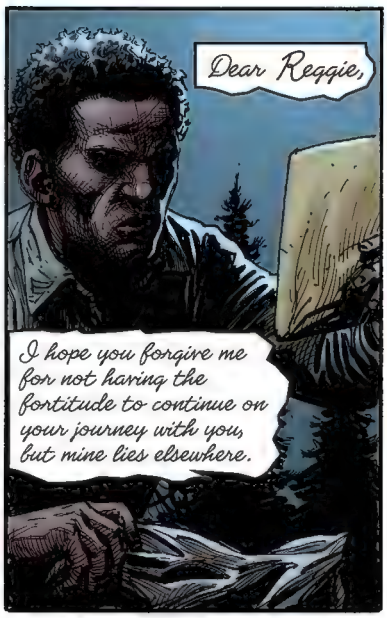
DID IT. ANYONE CAN SEE.

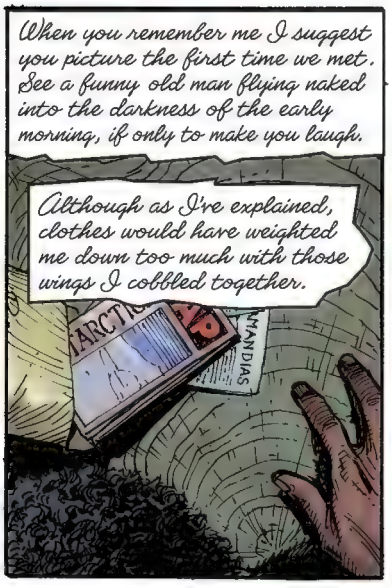
FIRE
LAUNDRY
WHAT IS IT? WHY ARE YOU STOPPING?
21

HEAT FROM BURNING HELL SCORCHED GROUNDS.
STENCH OF MADNESS FILLED LUNGS.
BYRON?
BUT LIGHT WAS BRIGHT.
IT'S BEEN CALLING TO ME.
I SEE IT.
SEE WHAT?
BYRON?!
WHAT DO YOU SEE?!
DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

NOT UNTIL LATER.

Reggie


Dear Reggie,
I hope you forgive me for not having the fortitude to continue on your journey with you, but mine lies elsewhere.


When you remember me I suggest you picture the first time we met. See a funny old man flying naked into the darkness of the early morning, if only to make you laugh.
Although as I've explained, clothes would have weighted me down too much with those wings I cobbled together.

I don't know if these tickets are still good, but I was invited there once and I know it will not be an easy journey.
BOARDING PASS
THE PERCY BYSSHE
No.1212
TIME/DATE

You have been searching for a true north to your compass for as long as I have known you.
Or south, as it were.
400
300
I pray you reach your destination and find the truth you are looking for, but I caution you because I care about you.
THE PEDESTAL

Everything that brought us together may be a string of random events or it may be part of a grand design.
But the truth is relative.

What you see is all that matters.
Your friend now and forever,
Byron

FIRST TIME HELD MASK.

smiled at me.
PERCY BYSSHE

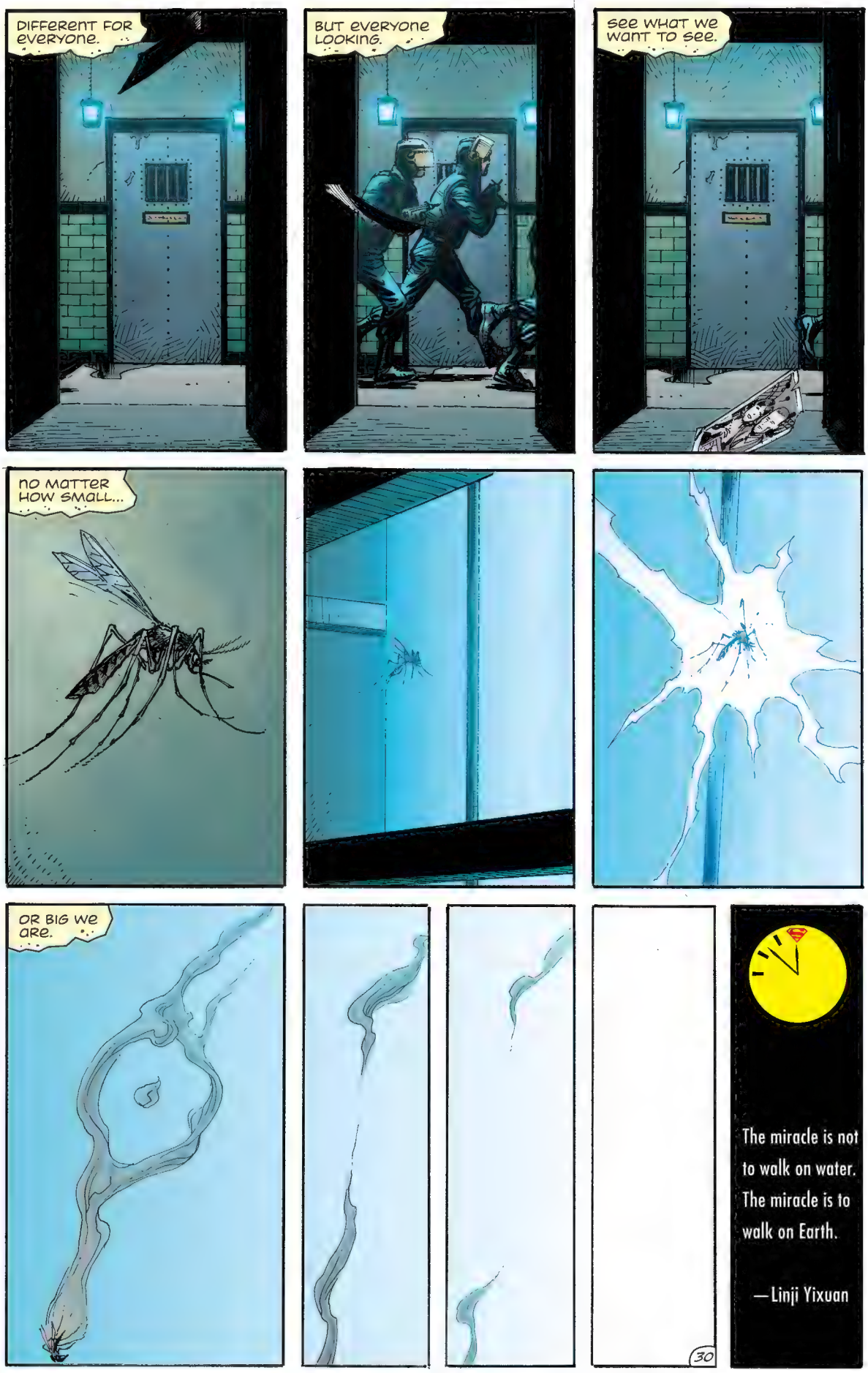
RR.
RUH...

IF YOU'RE HERE TO KILL ME...
...I MIGHT THANK YOU IF YOU MAKE IT QUICK... WHOEVER YOU ARE.
OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE NOT WALTER KOVACS.
AND I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU WERE A FRIEND OF HIS EITHER...
I...I'M RORSCHACH.
YOUR CLOTHES ARE WET, YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM HYPOTHERMIA. I'D ALSO GUESS YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T EATEN IN A FEW DAYS.
WE BOTH ARE TROUBLED, YOU SEE.
I HAVE A GLIOBLASTOMA GROWING IN MY FRONTAL LOBE.
AND UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONLY PERSON I'D TRUST TO OPERATE ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS...IS MYSELF.
FEB 10
26

I DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOUR NAME IS, AS SURPRISED AS I AM TO SEE SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE HIM. I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE.
BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID. THE MISTAKE I...
MISTAKE? YOU...KILLED PARENTS.
SCREECHING OF CREATURE RUPTURED EARDRUMS. A CHILD'S BODY BURST OPEN LIKE BALLOON FULL OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE...
RRAAAAA!
MOST INFECTED SLIT OWN THROATS. BLEW OUT DISEASED BRAINS. LUCKY ONES.
STAYED. FOUGHT. SURVIVED. FOR THIS.
THEN DO IT. MAKE THE WORLD CHEER IN CELEBRATION, "RORSCHACH."
UHUHUH
I WANTED THEM TO SEE A MONSTER.
BUT I AM THE MONSTER... OH, GOD.
WHAT HAVE I D-DONE? WHAT HAVE I...?
I'M SORRY. I...
I SAW THE LIGHT TOO LATE.
BODY SHAKING. LOOK IN EYES. SAW...
LIGHT?
REGRET. REMORSE. PAIN.

REGGIE?
WE'RE ALL MAD HERE
see what I want to see.
REGGIE?
need to hear what I want to...
MAYBE YOU'D PREFER I CALL YOU JOHN DOE.
I'M JANE DOE.
I'VE BEEN IN YOUR MIND FOR A FEW DAYS AND, WHOA, IS THAT A BUSY PLACE.
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. I WON'T BE AROUND FOR MUCH LONGER.
WHO ARE YOU?
"A FRIEND."
DAD SAID WE'RE ALL SEARCHING FOR ENLIGHTENMENT.
we're drawn to it.
LIKE BUGS TO A LIGHT.

Dad was a good man helping troubled people.
WE STILL CAN SAVE THE WORLD, REGGIE...
RRR?
...BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.
Like Kovacs.
Like me.
Pulled them out of darkness.
Turned them toward light.
IT LOOKS LIKE I UNDERESTIMATED MR. DOE.
YES, YOU CERTAINLY DID, MASTER WAYNE. AS I STATED, I WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT SOMEONE LIKE HIM ALONE IN ARKHAM.
HE KNOWS TOO MUCH.
AND WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH.
BUT WHAT IS LIGHT?


DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE.
BUT EVERYONE LOOKING.
SEE WHAT WE WANT TO SEE.
NO MATTER HOW SMALL...
OR BIG WE ARE.
The miracle is not to walk on water. The miracle is to walk on Earth.
—Linji Yixuan
30

December 19th, 1962

Dearest Betty,

I continue to write to you with deep love and a desperate hope that you might one day write your older brother in return. I do not know if I have an incorrect address, if you have thrown away my letters unopened or if you refuse to converse with me out of respect for father's request to "act as if I were dead." Perhaps raising the girls by yourself you simply haven't had the time to get reply. I still mourn Jack's death and am certain he was a wonderful husband and father and I wish I had gotten to know him better. I often wonder if I would have been better off enlisting as he did to make a difference rather than pursuing my own foolish dreams.

I understand from Mr. Grunk that the public exposure of my adventuring and subsequent stay at Fitzgerald has caused our parents and you a great deal of stress. He came to visit yesterday, smelling of tobacco and peppermints as he did when we were children. I agreed to Mr. Grunk's request that father take control of my financial assets as long as you are the beneficiary once the lawyer fees are accounted for. I assure you, the last thing I ever set out to do was hurt the people I love the most, especially you.

There have been many horrific things said about me in the press since my breakdown. A knot has grown permanently within my stomach. Although I ~~have~~ wish to defend myself from these terrible accusations, I fear there is enough truth within some of them that I have no defense on which to stand. I therefore can only once again apologize for being a disappointment and embarrassment, to you more than anyone else, as you have been the most kind, generous and loving person in my life.

I would hope you find it in your heart to return one of my letters or even come and see me. I'd very much like to apologize in person and see how big the children have gotten. I love you.

Your dearest brother,

Byron

THE FITZGERALD MENTAL HOME
1 FOREST VIEW CIRCLE, WATERVILLE 04, MAINE

965

November 14th,

Dearest Betty,

As the snow covers the grounds like a cotton blanket outside my window, I can't help but go back to the Christmas Eve of nearly forty years ago. It was 1927, I was fifteen and you were one week shy of eight. We had just moved into that great house on the hill by the creek. Father was still at the office while Mother was busy unpacking the kitchen. So she sent us into town to pick up a smoked ham. She gave us two dollars to bring back the biggest we could find. Whatever change was left, we were allowed to spend on whatever we wished. On the way to the market, we made a list in our heads. Of licorice, drawing paper and crayons. We spent the afternoon spoiling our dinner with our favorite sweet treat and coloring pictures. Me of airplanes and you of rainbows they could fly over. Father was not happy when he came home, yelling at Mother and us, angry we had wasted money on such silly things. They got into an awful fight and he left. Christmas morning, Father came back and admitted to all of us that he had lost his job the day before. The job that was supposed to pay for this great house on the hill by the creek. It was the only time I have ever seen Father cry. He held us tight as he did. All of us. And I remember thinking how lucky we were to be part of such a family.

I often wonder what he might say to me if he came here. Would he scold me for being a dreamer still? Or ~~might~~ would he shed a tear and say he missed me as much as I miss all of you? No matter, I suppose.

Your dearest brother,

Byron

THE FITZGERALD MENTAL HOME
1 FOREST VIEW CIRCLE, WATERVILLE 04, MAINE

June 25th, 1974

Dearest Betty,

I know I missed sending you a letter last week and I wanted to apologize. A friend of mine was killed in a freak automobile accident last Monday that left him decapitated and I was quite shaken. Then on Tuesday, I was forced to attend a new class at Fitzgerald called "Hurting the One You Love" that left me in tears.

I realize that my behavior may have, even now, a negative effect on those closest to me. And despite not seeing or hearing from you in over a decade, there is no one closer to me in my life than my sister. However, as lonely as I am, I also now understand that my letters to you may be unsettling. I want to assure you, I have nothing but love for you and the rest of the family and I would never do anything to harm you. Perhaps that fear is what has kept you from writing back or seeing me all these years?

Betty, I am also pleased to tell you that you will be contacted soon by an estate lawyer named Mr. Frederick T. Charles. He will be delivering to you a check in the amount of $70,000. I inherited quite a bit from my dear friend who I mentioned above. I had forgotten I loaned him money over the years, but he remembered and had invested it well. I wish I had stayed in touch with him. I never would have guessed he gave me a moment's thought after I was admitted. It gives me hope for us.

If you are so inclined, once you receive the check I am hoping that you might purchase and send me the items listed below under the understanding that you will keep the remaining money for yourself and the girls.

- 18 feet of 3.8 millimeter aluminum alloy tubing
- 40 feet of quarter inch metal cable
- Cable cutters
- 3 rolls, 100 yards each, of polyester cloth (polyethylene terephthalate fabric)
- One pair of goggles

Of course if this makes you uncomfortable in any way, keep the money for yourself and I will find another way to attain the above.

Truthfully, I don't expect a reply as I have yet to receive one in the years I've been writing to you, but I hope you keep this letter, and that you have kept all of them, as a reminder of how much you mean to me. If it were not for them, I would surely have lost my mind by now.

Your dearest brother,

Byron

November 3rd, 1985

Dearest Betty,

The horrors we are confronted by now dwarf every problem we've ever faced. As a world. As a human being. I would greatly ~~appre~~ appreciate a letter to let me know that you and the girls are safe and living well in Bethlehem, Connecticut. I beg of you, Betty. Please.

Just let me know you are all okay.

Your dearest brother,
Byron

fmh
the fitzgerald mental home
1 FOREST VIEW CIRCLE, WATERVILLE, MAINE 04901

November 8th, 1985

Dearest Betty,

Thank you so much for the flowers. I admit, I burst into tears when I received them and saw your note as the sender. There are no words to express how happy I am to hear from you after all of these years. I am relieved you are safe. I love you very much. Thank you, Betty, thank you.
I had almost given up.

Your dearest brother,
Byron

fmh
the fitzgerald mental home
1 FOREST VIEW CIRCLE, WATERVILLE, MAINE 04901

December 5th, 1985

Dearest Betty,

I was hoping to hear from you again after the flowers but I remain patient. Yesterday, I met the most extraordinary young man. He was one of the unfortunate victims of the New York City massacre and he suffers greatly. He sees things that are not there most of the time. Horrible and disturbing images I dare not write down might they stick in your brain as they do his. These nightmares have kept him awake and nearly driven him to take his own life. But I know I can help this young man. I believe my experiences are uniquely suited to what he needs. In fact, I feel renewed with a sense of purpose for the first time since I flew across the sky.
Incidentally, I apologize if you got wind of my adventures last night I did fly naked, but for good reason

Your dearest brother,
Byron

1 FOREST VIEW CIRC
WATERVILLE, MAINE 049
MENTAL HOME

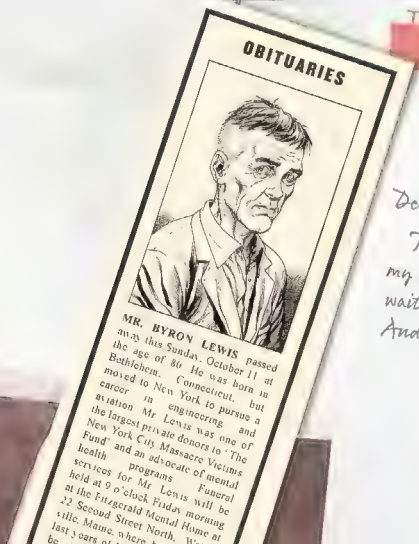
THE
Fitzgerald
MENTAL HOME
1 FOREST VIEW CIRCLE
WATERVILLE, MAINE 04901

October 17th, 1992

Dearest Betty,

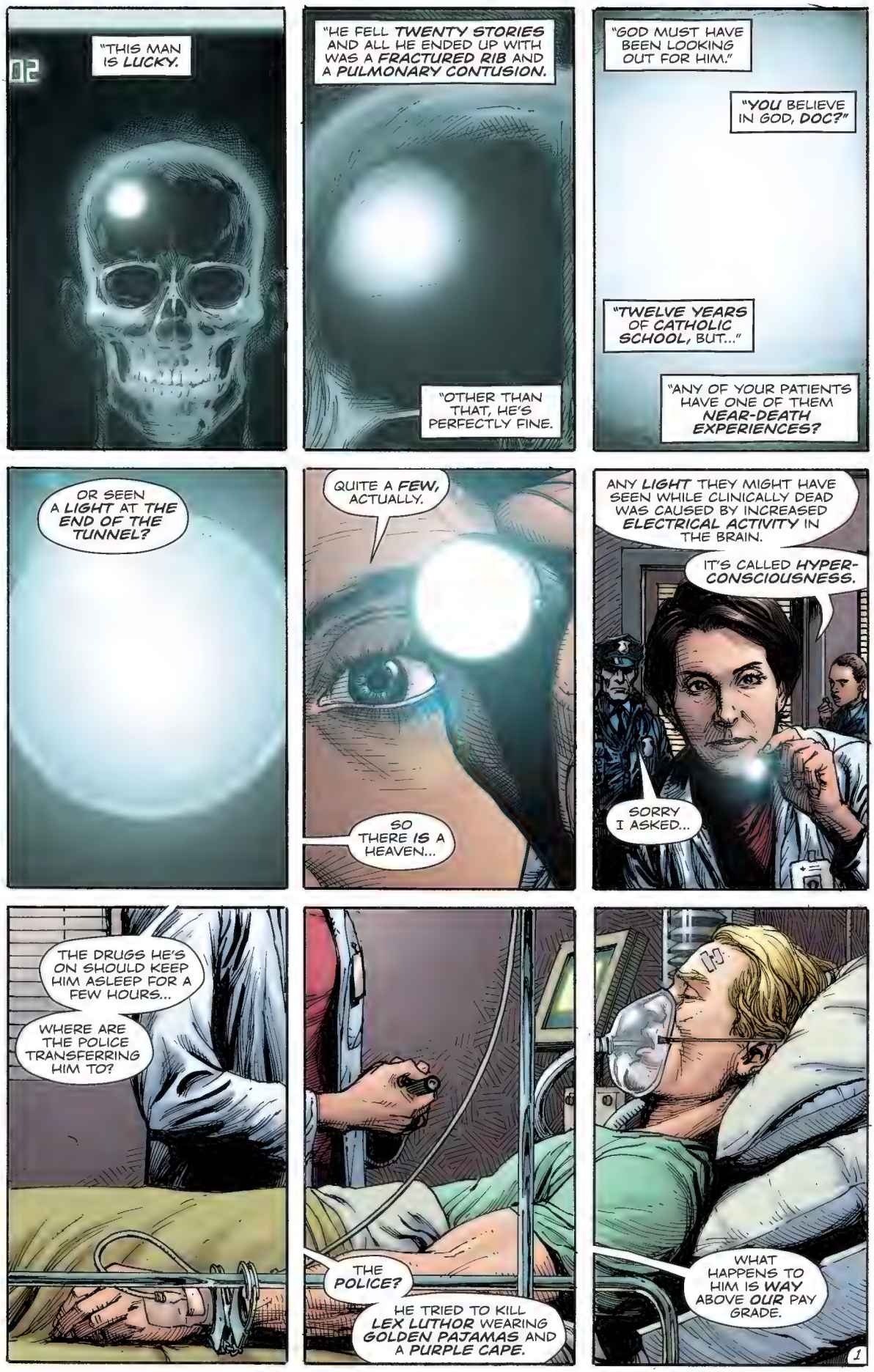
This will be my last letter to you. I want you to know I'm happy and my love for you will continue on forever. Father and Mother are waiting for me. They've forgiven me. I saw them.
And I'll see you again, too.

Your dearest brother,
Byron


OBITUARIES

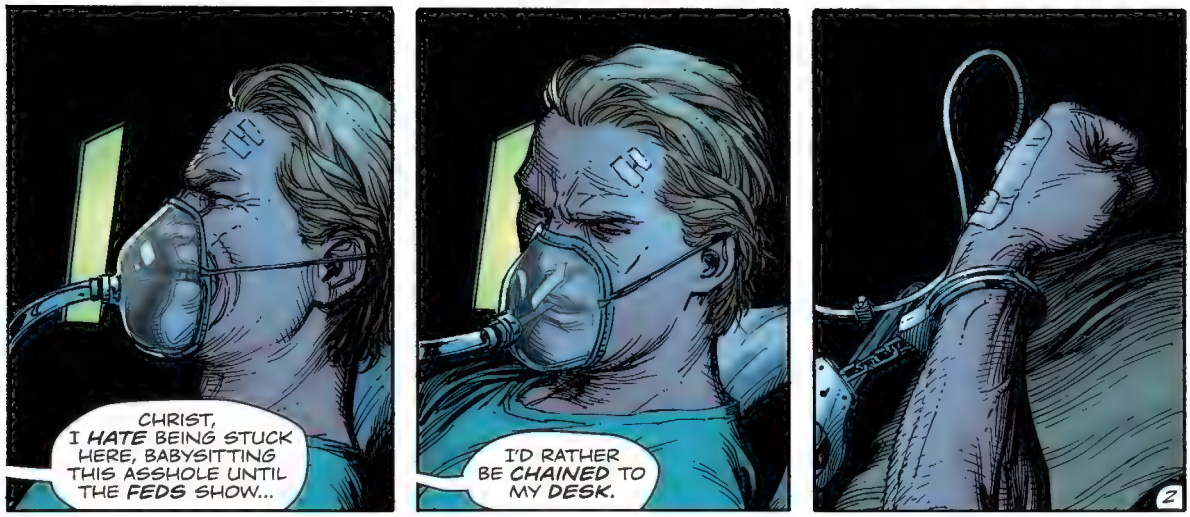
MR. BYRON LEWIS passed away this Sunday, October 11 at the age of 80. He was born in Bethlehem, Connecticut, but moved to New York to pursue a career in engineering and aviation. Mr. Lewis was one of the largest private donors to The New York City Massacre Victims Fund and an advocate of mental health programs. Funeral services for Mr. Lewis will be held at 9 o'clock Friday morning at the Fitzgerald Mental Home at 22 Second Street North, Waterville, Maine, where he spent the last 3 years of his

02
FEB 10
2017


02
"THIS MAN IS LUCKY.
"HE FELL TWENTY STORIES AND ALL HE ENDED UP WITH WAS A FRACTURED RIB AND A PULMONARY CONTUSION.
"OTHER THAN THAT, HE'S PERFECTLY FINE.
"GOD MUST HAVE BEEN LOOKING OUT FOR HIM."
"YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, DOC?"
"TWELVE YEARS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL, BUT..."
"ANY OF YOUR PATIENTS HAVE ONE OF THEM NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES?
OR SEEN A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?
QUITE A FEW, ACTUALLY.
SO THERE IS A HEAVEN...
ANY LIGHT THEY MIGHT HAVE SEEN WHILE CLINICALLY DEAD WAS CAUSED BY INCREASED ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY IN THE BRAIN.
IT'S CALLED HYPER-CONSCIOUSNESS.
SORRY I ASKED...
THE DRUGS HE'S ON SHOULD KEEP HIM ASLEEP FOR A FEW HOURS...
WHERE ARE THE POLICE TRANSFERRING HIM TO?
THE POLICE?
HE TRIED TO KILL LEX LUTHOR WEARING GOLDEN PAJAMAS AND A PURPLE CAPE.
WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM IS WAY ABOVE OUR PAY GRADE.
1

THESE DAYS, EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE POWERS, YOU WEAR A HALLOWEEN MASK AND COMMIT A CRIME, YOU'RE A FEDERAL PROBLEM...
WANNABES.
YEP. THEY'RE WHY GOTHAM'S SUCH A GODDAMN MESS.
AND WHY EVERYONE'S IN THE STREETS OVER THERE, MARCHING AGAINST THE BATMAN AND HIS GROUPIES.
LEX LUTHOR SAYS THE DARK KNIGHT AND THAT BAT-SIGNAL ARE WHAT DRAW OUT THE PAINTED FREAKS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
LUTHOR'S RIGHT.
THEY SHOULD'VE BROUGHT DOWN THE BATMAN AND TURNED OFF HIS LIGHT A LONG TIME AGO.
THANK GOD WE LIVE IN METROPOLIS.
SUPERMAN'S THE ONLY THING YOU CAN BELIEVE IN ANYMORE.

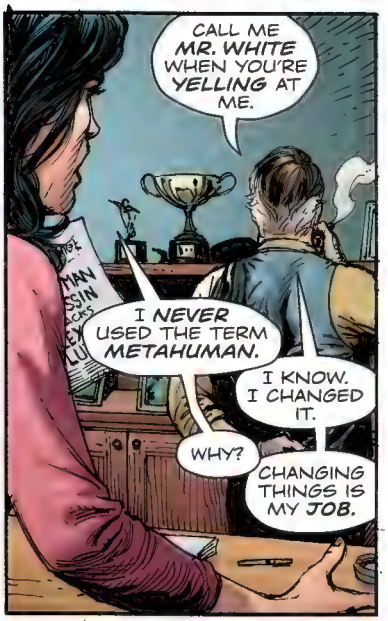
# THERE IS NO GOD



YOU VOLUNTEERED, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, YEAH. PAY RATES DOUBLE WHEN METAHUMANS ARE INVOLVED.
AND I BEEN LOOKIN' AT THIS BOAT DOWN IN THE HARBOR...
HEY... YOU HEAR THAT?
ALERT
SHIT!
HE'S FLATLINING!
9
SHIT! SHIT! SHIT!
CALL THAT DOCTOR!
FORGET IT. YOU CAN DOWNGRADE THE FIVE-ALARM FIRE.
WHAT?
HIS SENSORS JUST CAME LOOSE, THAT'S ALL.
YES.
I PULLED THEM LOOSE TO BRING YOU BACK IN HERE...
...SO I COULD GET THE KEY TO MY CUFFS.
NOW PLEASE, SIR.
TAKE OFF YOUR UNIFORM.
3

...TWO AMERICAN METAHUMANS HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN ST. PETERSBURG FOLLOWING A TERRORIST ATTACK BY CHECHEN SEPARATISTS THAT LEFT FIFTEEN DEAD.
HAWK AND DOVE WERE ARRESTED BY RUSSIA'S ROCKET RED BRIGADE AND CHARGED WITH INTERFERING IN POLICE BUSINESS...
...WHILE WASHINGTON D.C.'S SUPER-HERO DUO CLAIMS RUSSIA'S ARMORED POLICE FORCE ACTED RECKLESSLY, TRIGGERING THE ATTACKERS AND ESCALATING THE SITUATION.
HAWK IS NO STRANGER TO POLITICAL DRAMA...
...THE CONTROVERSIAL METAHUMAN WAS EMBROILED IN A GUN-RUNNING OPERATION IN NICARAGUA SEVERAL YEARS AGO...
WHERE IS BUBASTIS?
"...IN MOSCOW THEIR FORMER TEAMMATE, RED STAR, CONDEMNED HAWK AND DOVE AND ANNOUNCED HE WOULD BE STEPPING OUT OF RETIREMENT TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY..."
WHAT THE HELL IS IT?
I THINK IT'S A CARACAL.
METROPOLIS ANIMAL SERVICES
A WHAT?
CAT WITH POINTY EARS. THEY MADE STATUES OF THEM ALL OVER EGYPT. FOR LUCK.
RRR.
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN WHAT THE THING'S OWNER WAS WEARING. IT'S IN OUR SQUAD CAR.
SO YOU DO HAVE MY CLOTHES.
AND MY CAT.
I'D LIKE THEM BOTH BACK.
PARKING
PARKING
REOW.
"WHAT ARE YOU HISSING ABOUT?"
4

THIS HEADLINE, CHIEF!
ETAHUMA
ASSASSIN
ATTACK
LEX
LU
BY LOIS LA

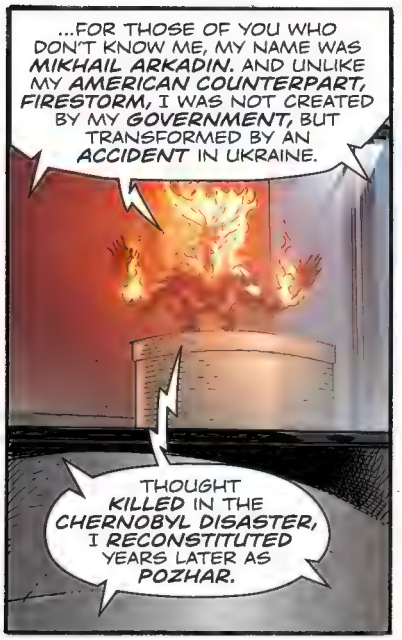

CALL ME MR. WHITE WHEN YOU'RE YELLING AT ME.
I NEVER USED THE TERM METAHUMAN.
I KNOW. I CHANGED IT.
WHY?
CHANGING THINGS IS MY JOB.

I REALIZE IT'S THE BUZZ WORD OF THE DAY, BUT THIS MAN BEING A METAHUMAN HASN'T BEEN PROVEN YET.
YOU'RE PLAYING INTO PARANOIA TO SELL PAPERS.

AND GET CLICKS, GOD HELP ME.
LOOK, LOIS, HE WAS WEARING A GODDAMN CAPE AND I NEEDED TO CUT THROUGH ALL THE NOISE.
BUT...
THE WORLD'S FAITH IN ITS SPANDEX SOCIETY IS FALLING APART. YOU WANT TO CHANGE THAT...

GET OUT THERE AND PROVE THEM WRONG!

IS IT TOO LATE TO ASK SOMEONE ELSE TO BE JON'S GODFATHER?
TEN YEARS TOO LATE.
AND MR. WHITE'S NOT THE PROBLEM, LOIS...

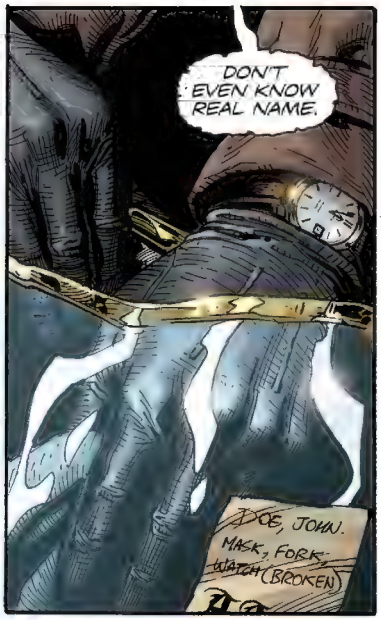

...FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW ME, MY NAME WAS MIKHAIL ARKADIN. AND UNLIKE MY AMERICAN COUNTERPART, FIRESTORM, I WAS NOT CREATED BY MY GOVERNMENT, BUT TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN UKRAINE.
THOUGHT KILLED IN THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER, I RECONSTITUTED YEARS LATER AS POZHAR.

RUSSIA'S MOST LOYAL AND POWERFUL METAHUMAN.
SOMEONE'S BEHIND ALL OF THIS, CLARK.
BEHIND WHAT?
THE SUPERMEN THEORY...
AND I HAVE A FEELING I KNOW WHO.

IN THE WAKE OF HAWK AND DOVE'S CARELESS ACTIONS...
...MY COUNTRY IS CLOSING ITS BORDERS TO ALL FOREIGNERS, METAHUMAN AND OTHERWISE...

"WE MUST SAVE OUR FUTURE."
I CAN'T WEAR REAL LEATHER!
-70%

IT'S OUTLAWED WHERE I COME FROM.
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
OH, WAIT. LEATHER'S FAKE. THIS IS FINE.


DON'T EVEN KNOW REAL NAME.
DOE, JOHN.
MASK, FORK, WATCH (BROKEN)

MINE? NOT IMPORTANT.
BUT YOU CAN CALL ME SATURN GIRL.

YOU DON'T KNOW SALLY JUPITER BY CHANCE...
ONLY FROM WHAT YOU KNOW.
HHH?
YOU DIDN'T RESPECT HER VERY MUCH. BUT HER DAUGHTER...
YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS CUTE.

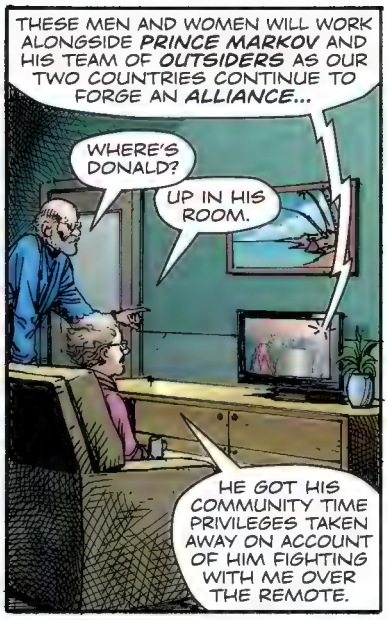
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I CAN READ MINDS.
THEN DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN MISSION. WHY HELP ME?

BECAUSE I LIKE HELPING PEOPLE.

NEED TO FIND MANHATTAN.
SO LET'S GO GET HIM!
ANY IDEAS?
OH, YES!

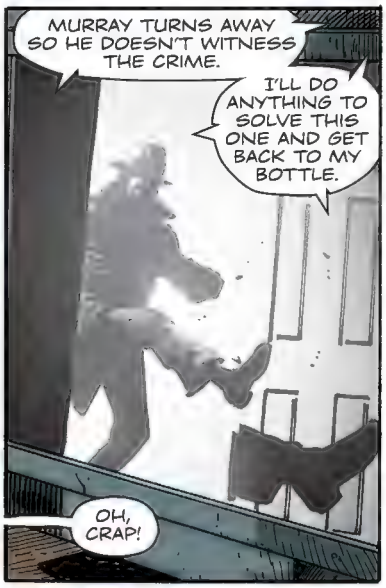
WE NEED A GREAT BIG LIGHT.
6

...SHOULD HAVE ANY ILLUSION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF GAINING MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER RUSSIA. WE WILL NEVER ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN.
TOGETHER, THE PEOPLE'S HEROES ARE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING ANY ONE OF AMERICA'S MANUFACTURED METAHUMANS.


THESE MEN AND WOMEN WILL WORK ALONGSIDE PRINCE MARKOV AND HIS TEAM OF OUTSIDERS AS OUR TWO COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE...
WHERE'S DONALD?
UP IN HIS ROOM.
HE GOT HIS COMMUNITY TIME PRIVILEGES TAKEN AWAY ON ACCOUNT OF HIM FIGHTING WITH ME OVER THE REMOTE.

"HE JUST HAD TO WATCH HIS NATHANIEL DUSK MOVIES OVER AND OVER!"
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN MR. THUNDER DOESN'T LIKE THE CHICKEN?
HE ALWAYS SAYS IT'S DRY.
STAND BACK, MURRAY.

I'M GOING TO KICK THE DOOR DOWN...
WELL, IT'S CHICKEN OR NOTHING.
BREAKING AND ENTERING IS ILLEGAL, NATE.
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT A COP.


MURRAY TURNS AWAY SO HE DOESN'T WITNESS THE CRIME.
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO SOLVE THIS ONE AND GET BACK TO MY BOTTLE.
OH, CRAP!

TWO DEAD BODIES. ONE WAS THE VICTIM. THE OTHER WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.
A WEALTHY RETIREE AND MURRAY'S EX-BROTHER-IN-LAW.
WHERE THE HELL DID THAT CRAZY FOSSIL GO?!

SO WAS THE RICH MAN THE TARGET...OR THE POOR ONE?
RELAX...
JOHNNY THUNDER IS 102 YEARS OLD.

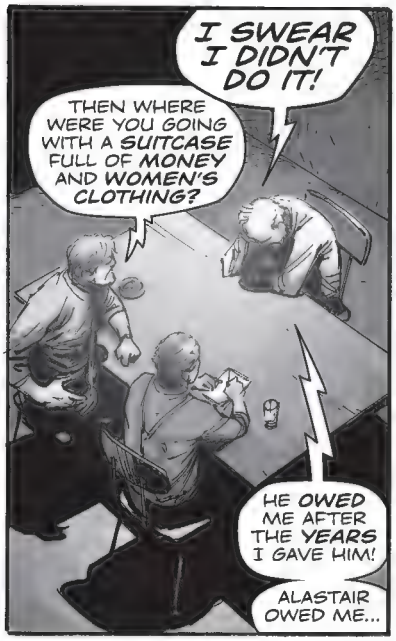
GREEN FIRE CONSUMES ALL-AMERICAN STEEL
WHEREVER HE'S TRYING TO GO... HE'S NOT GOING TO GET VERY FAR.

LOOKS LIKE OUR SUSPECT SKIPPED TOWN, NATE.
MAYBE NOT, MURRAY.
MAYBE NOT? YOU'VE BEEN OFF THE FORCE TOO LONG. DETECTIVE SKILLS ARE RUSTY. IT'S DARK. NO ONE'S HOME.
HE MUST'VE BEEN TIPPED OFF AND SPLIT.

YEAH, BUT WHO GOES TO THE TROUBLE OF PACKING ONLY TO LEAVE HIS LUGGAGE BEHIND?
SO HE DIDN'T BRING SOME CLOTHES WITH HIM. SO WHAT?

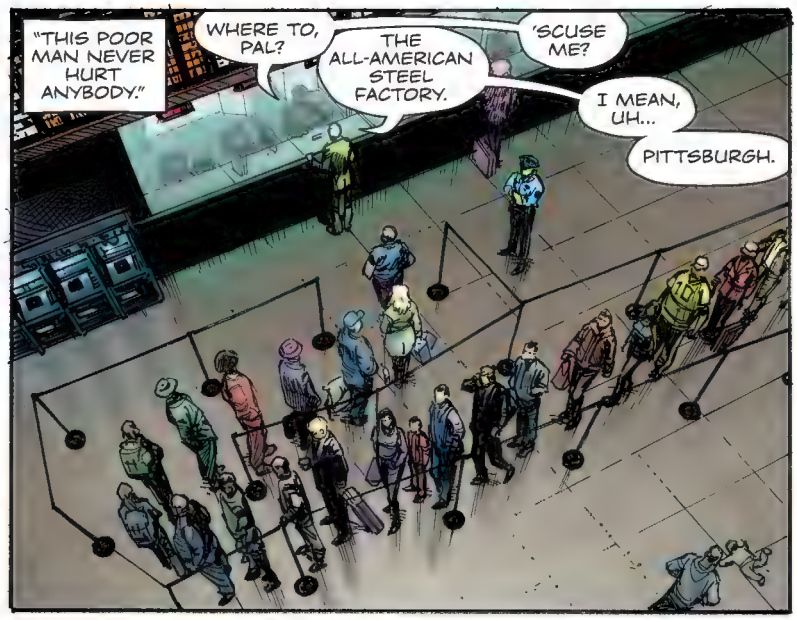
YOU HEAR THAT?
PANTING.
BREATHING...

DON'T SHOOT!
JASPER WELLINGTON WAS ALASTAIR TEMPUS' ACCOUNTANT.
MR. TEMPUS BEING THE RICH DEAD GUY.
HE WAS SEEN ARGUING WITH JASPER AT HIS OFFICE THE DAY HE WAS KILLED.


I SWEAR I DIDN'T DO IT!
THEN WHERE WERE YOU GOING WITH A SUITCASE FULL OF MONEY AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING?
HE OWED ME AFTER THE YEARS I GAVE HIM!
ALASTAIR OWED ME...

JASPER WELLINGTON GOES ON TO TELL US HE ASKED MR. TEMPUS FOR A LOAN...TO FLY TO EUROPE FOR AN OPERATION I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WANTS.
TEMPUS REFUSED.

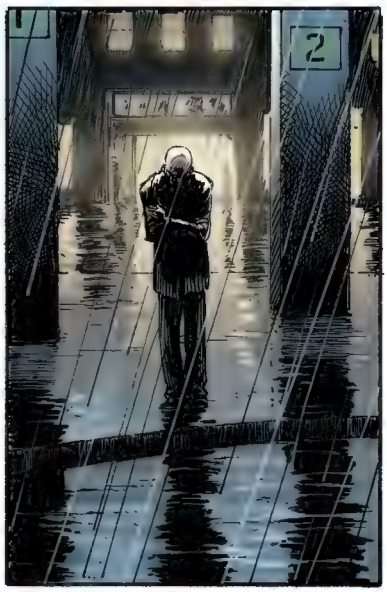
AFTER HE DIED, JASPER DECIDED TO TAKE THE LOAN ANYWAY.
I'M SORRY...
I BELIEVE HIM.
8


"THIS POOR MAN NEVER HURT ANYBODY."
WHERE TO, PAL?
THE ALL-AMERICAN STEEL FACTORY.
'SCUSE ME?
I MEAN, UH...
PITTSBURGH.

PITTSBURGH. NEXT TRAIN LEAVES THREE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT.
THAT'LL BE 79 DOLLARS, PAL.
SEVENTY... OH.
I...I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY ON ME.

THEN TOUGH SHIT, OLD MAN.
MOVE ASIDE, YOU'RE HOLDIN' UP EVERYONE ELSE!
YEAH!
BUT I...I'M SEARCHING FOR MY FRIEND'S MAGIC LAMP. ALAN'S LOST, BUT HIS LAMP IS HERE. AND IF I FIND IT, I FIND THE GENIE. I FIND MY FRIENDS. I WON'T BE ALONE ANYMORE.

SIR, YOU NEED TO MOVE ALONG NOW.
BUT IF SOMEONE COULD PLEASE HELP ME...
YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO TAKE THE TRAIN, TAKE THE BUS!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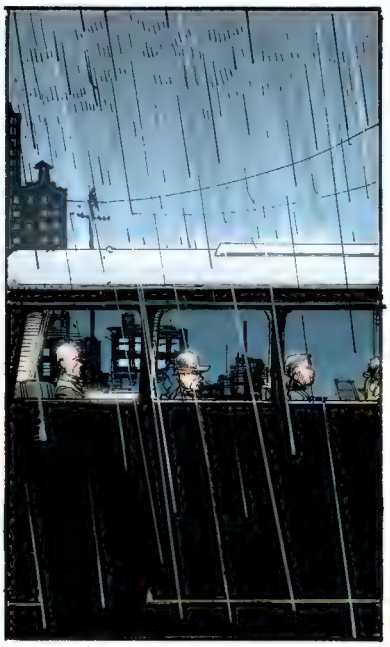
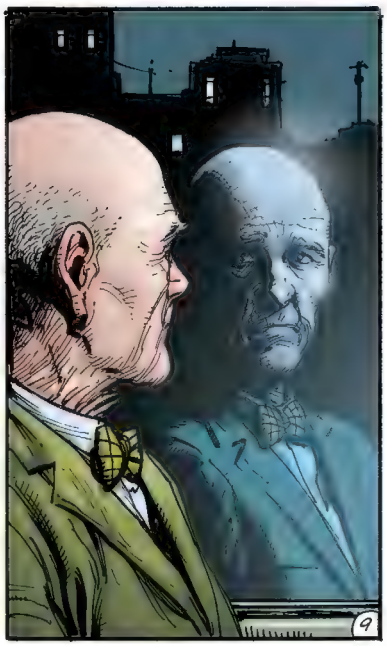
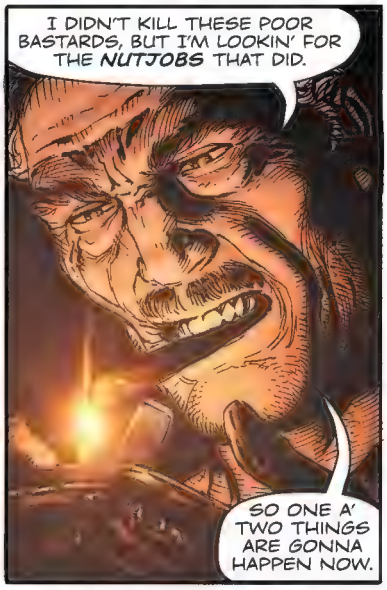



9

METROPOLIS
ANIMAL
SERVICES
RRR?
YES, BUBASTIS. THEY'RE GONE.
PERHAPS NOW JON WILL...
YOU MUST BE HIM.
ADRIAN VEIDT.
I'VE READ ALL ABOUT YOU.
10

HEY!

DON'T YOU MOVE!
I'M NOT HERE FOR YOU, SO IT'S BEST YOU DON'T SEE ME.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


I DIDN'T KILL THESE POOR BASTARDS, BUT I'M LOOKIN' FOR THE NUTJOBS THAT DID.
SO ONE A' TWO THINGS ARE GONNA HAPPEN NOW.

ONE...
YOU'RE GOING TO TRY AND ARREST ME OR SHOOT ME OR SOME SHIT AND I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SLIT YOUR THROATS.

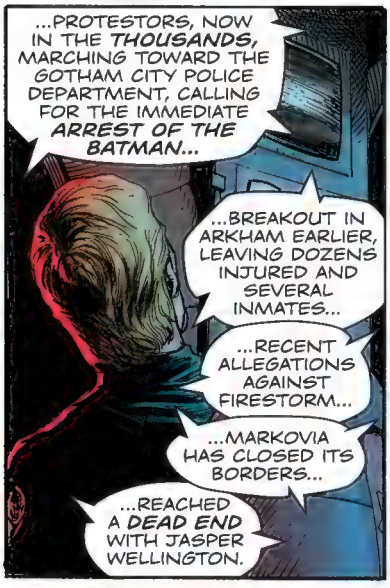
OR TWO...
YOU DON'T SEE ME.

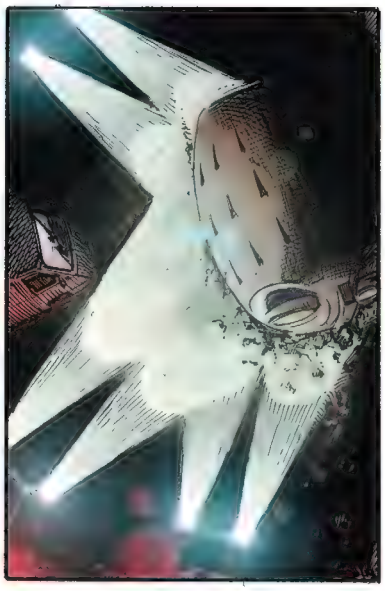
HAVE A NICE EVENIN', BOYS.

PUH-PLEASE.
PLEASE DON'T DO THAT!
YAAAGGGAGG!
OH, SHIT. OH, JESUS. TAKE THE MONEY! TAKE ALL OF IT!
TAKE YOUR MONEY?
YOUR BILLS DON'T HAVE NIXON ON THEM.
THEY'RE USELESS TO US.
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
WE DON'T WANT YOUR FUNNY MONEY. WE WANT YOUR BOSS.
WE WANT THE JOKER.
HIS CREW TRIED TO HURT US. BECAUSE WE WERE WEARING MAKEUP IN ONE OF HIS CLUBS.
APPARENTLY, THAT'S A DEATH SENTENCE.
HE'LL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THAT.
WHERE IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW. NO ONE DOES. BUT HE'S A GOT A PLAN. T-TONIGHT.
WE'RE ALL MEETIN' AT THE LIGHT!
WHAT LIGHT?
THAT ONE.
12

WHAT DO YOU WANT ON MY WORLD...
I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE, BUT IT APPEARS THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO OFFER.

WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!

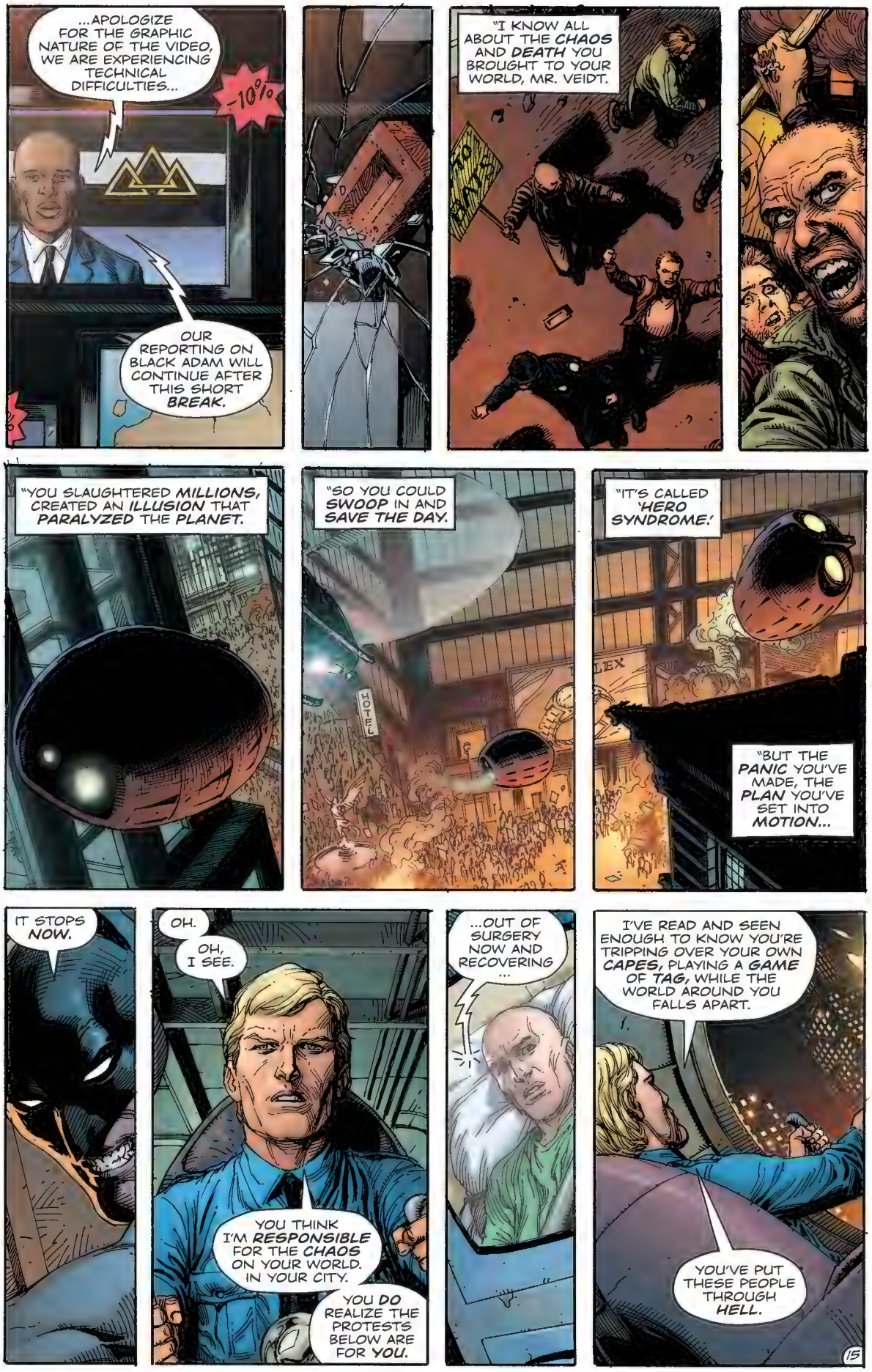

...PROTESTORS, NOW IN THE THOUSANDS, MARCHING TOWARD THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE ARREST OF THE BATMAN...
...BREAKOUT IN ARKHAM EARLIER, LEAVING DOZENS INJURED AND SEVERAL INMATES...
...RECENT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FIRESTORM...
...MARKOVIA HAS CLOSED ITS BORDERS...
...REACHED A DEAD END WITH JASPER WELLINGTON.

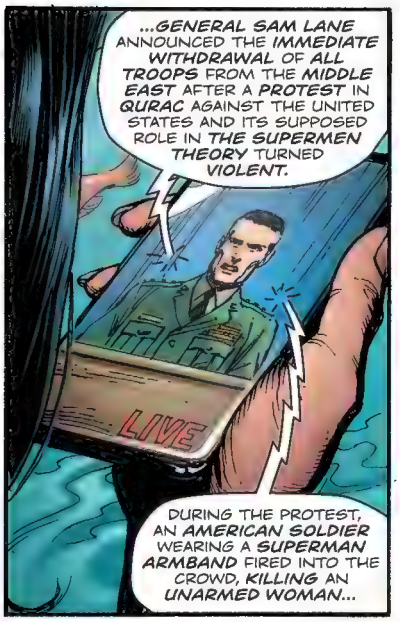


WE NEED AIR SUPPORT!
DO YOU COPY?!

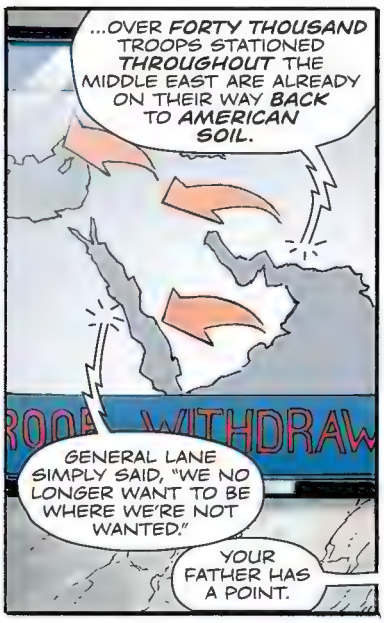
13

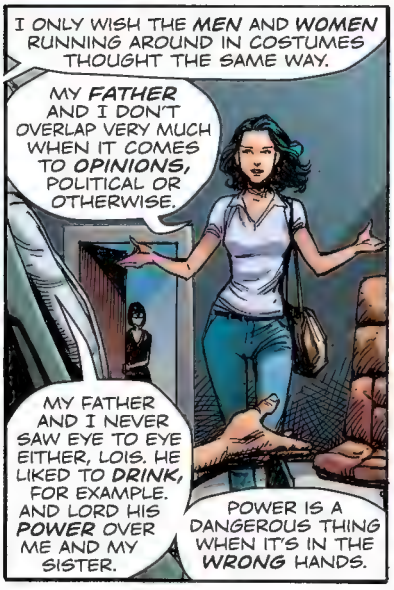
RORSCHACH ESCAPED.
OF COURSE HE DID.
BUT WE HAVE MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS AT THE MOMENT.
RAVEN TWO, THIS IS SCOUT ONE, WE HAVE OUR EYES ON THE BIRD.
OLICE
YEAH, THE NAME'S FIRESTORM AND I'M A METAHUMAN. YOU GOT THAT PART RIGHT!
BUT I DIDN'T GET MY POWERS FROM SOME SECRET U.S. GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. I GOT THEM FROM AN ACCIDENT LIKE A TON OF MY FRIENDS DID.
THE SUPERMEN THEORY IS TOTAL BULLSHIT.
AND POZHAR IS AN ASSHOLE!
WHAT...
NO, I WON'T WATCH MY LANGUAGE!
...
WHO CARES, PROFESSOR?!
THEY'RE CALLING ME A LIAR!
OH, FIRESTORM IS ONE OF THEM.
LIKE METAMORPHO. MAN-BAT. CLAYFACE. ME.
LIVING WEAPONS MADE IN THE GOOD OL' U.S. OF A.
YOU CAN'T TRUST ANY OF US.
...DISTURBING VIDEO SURFACED TODAY OF AMERICAN JOURNALIST JACK RYDER, MISSING FOR THREE MONTHS AFTER HE WAS ABDUCTED BY KING KOBRA IN NORTHERN KAHNDAQ...
THE TIME HAS COME FOR AMERICA'S STRANGLEHOLD ON HUMANITY TO END.
KALI YUGA WILL CLEANSE THIS WORLD OF FALSE HEROES...
AAAA
SHIT, I HOPE YOU RECORDED THAT!
SERVES YOU RIGHT, MOTHERF

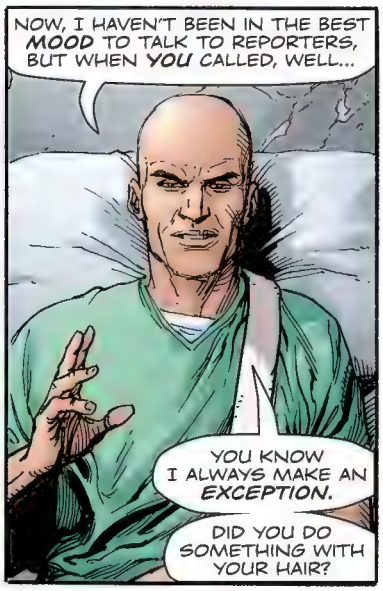

...APOLOGIZE FOR THE GRAPHIC NATURE OF THE VIDEO, WE ARE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES...
-10%
OUR REPORTING ON BLACK ADAM WILL CONTINUE AFTER THIS SHORT BREAK.
"I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE CHAOS AND DEATH YOU BROUGHT TO YOUR WORLD, MR. VEIDT.
"YOU SLAUGHTERED MILLIONS, CREATED AN ILLUSION THAT PARALYZED THE PLANET.
"SO YOU COULD SWOOP IN AND SAVE THE DAY.
HOTEL
"IT'S CALLED 'HERO SYNDROME.'
"BUT THE PANIC YOU'VE MADE, THE PLAN YOU'VE SET INTO MOTION...
IT STOPS NOW.
OH.
OH, I SEE.
YOU THINK I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHAOS ON YOUR WORLD. IN YOUR CITY.
YOU DO REALIZE THE PROTESTS BELOW ARE FOR YOU.
...OUT OF SURGERY NOW AND RECOVERING ...
I'VE READ AND SEEN ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU'RE TRIPPING OVER YOUR OWN CAPES, PLAYING A GAME OF TAG, WHILE THE WORLD AROUND YOU FALLS APART.
YOU'VE PUT THESE PEOPLE THROUGH HELL.


...GENERAL SAM LANE ANNOUNCED THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL TROOPS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AFTER A PROTEST IN QURAC AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND ITS SUPPOSED ROLE IN THE SUPERMEN THEORY TURNED VIOLENT.
LIVE
DURING THE PROTEST, AN AMERICAN SOLDIER WEARING A SUPERMAN ARMBAND FIRED INTO THE CROWD, KILLING AN UNARMED WOMAN...

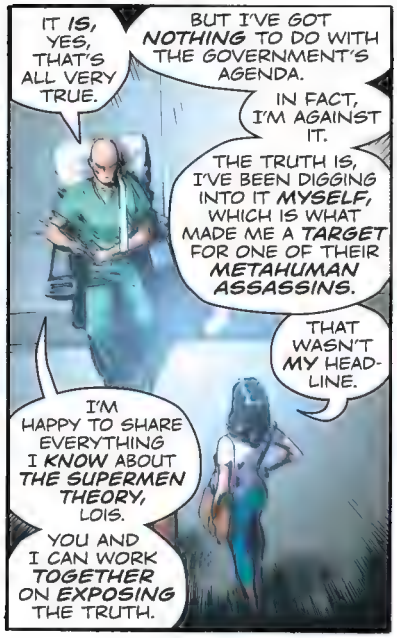
MISS LANE?
MR. LUTHOR WILL SEE YOU NOW.


...OVER FORTY THOUSAND TROOPS STATIONED THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY BACK TO AMERICAN SOIL.
GENERAL LANE SIMPLY SAID, "WE NO LONGER WANT TO BE WHERE WE'RE NOT WANTED."
YOUR FATHER HAS A POINT.

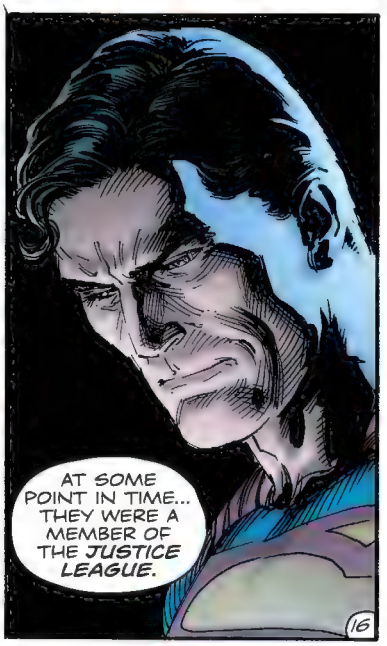

I ONLY WISH THE MEN AND WOMEN RUNNING AROUND IN COSTUMES THOUGHT THE SAME WAY.
MY FATHER AND I DON'T OVERLAP VERY MUCH WHEN IT COMES TO OPINIONS, POLITICAL OR OTHERWISE.
MY FATHER AND I NEVER SAW EYE TO EYE EITHER, LOIS. HE LIKED TO DRINK, FOR EXAMPLE. AND LORD HIS POWER OVER ME AND MY SISTER.
POWER IS A DANGEROUS THING WHEN IT'S IN THE WRONG HANDS.


NOW, I HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE BEST MOOD TO TALK TO REPORTERS, BUT WHEN YOU CALLED, WELL...
YOU KNOW I ALWAYS MAKE AN EXCEPTION.
DID YOU DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR HAIR?

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO WITH THE SUPERMEN THEORY?
ME?
COME OFF IT, LEX. YOUR HATRED OF SUPERMAN AND HIS FRIENDS IS NO SECRET. YOU'VE BEEN THE LOUDEST VOICE AGAINST METAHUMANS.
AND NAMING SOMETHING AS SPURIOUS AS THIS AFTER SUPERMAN IS RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY.

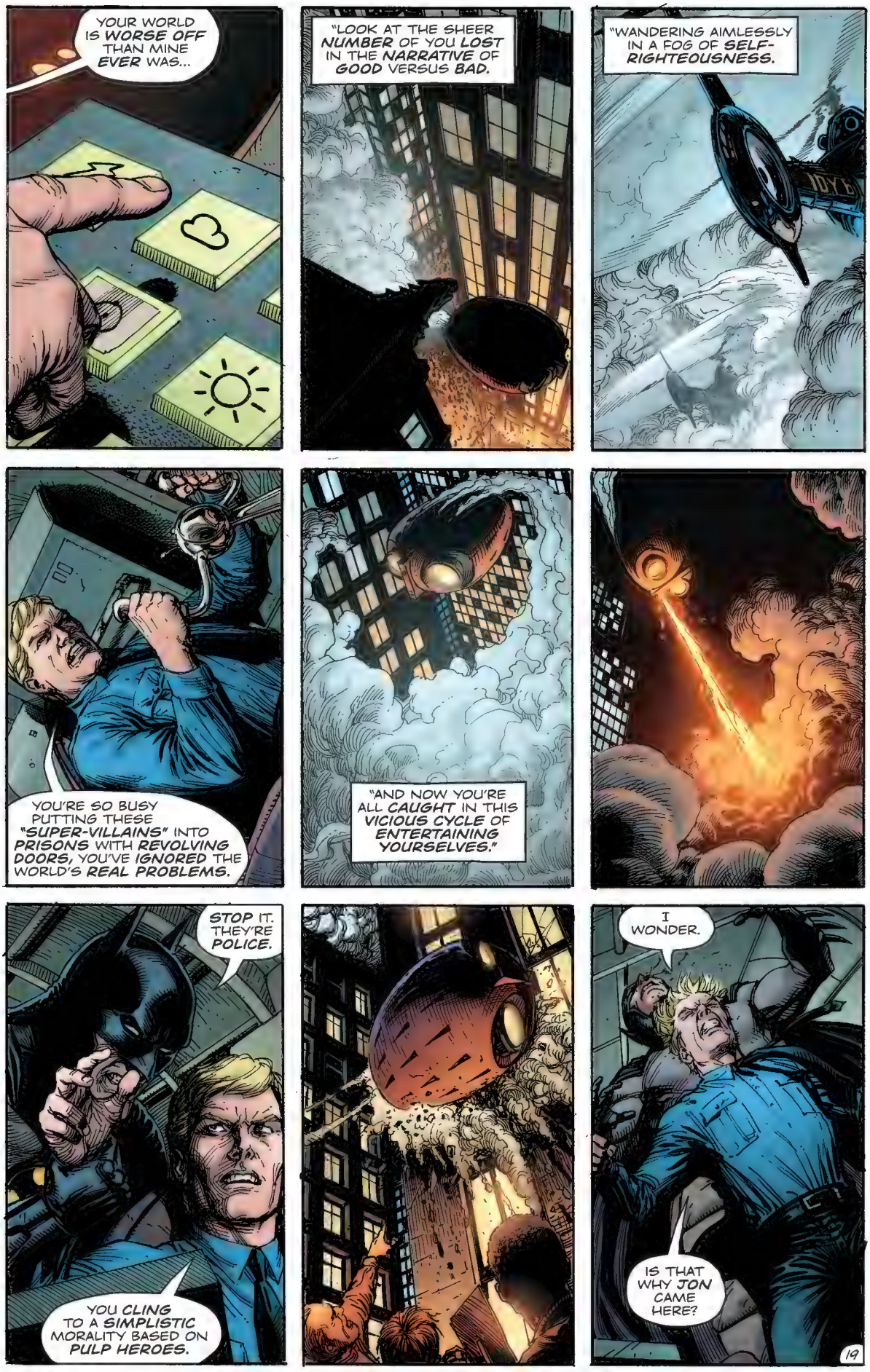

IT IS, YES, THAT'S ALL VERY TRUE.
BUT I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA.
IN FACT, I'M AGAINST IT.
THE TRUTH IS, I'VE BEEN DIGGING INTO IT MYSELF, WHICH IS WHAT MADE ME A TARGET FOR ONE OF THEIR METAHUMAN ASSASSINS.
THAT WASN'T MY HEADLINE.
I'M HAPPY TO SHARE EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT THE SUPERMEN THEORY, LOIS.
YOU AND I CAN WORK TOGETHER ON EXPOSING THE TRUTH.

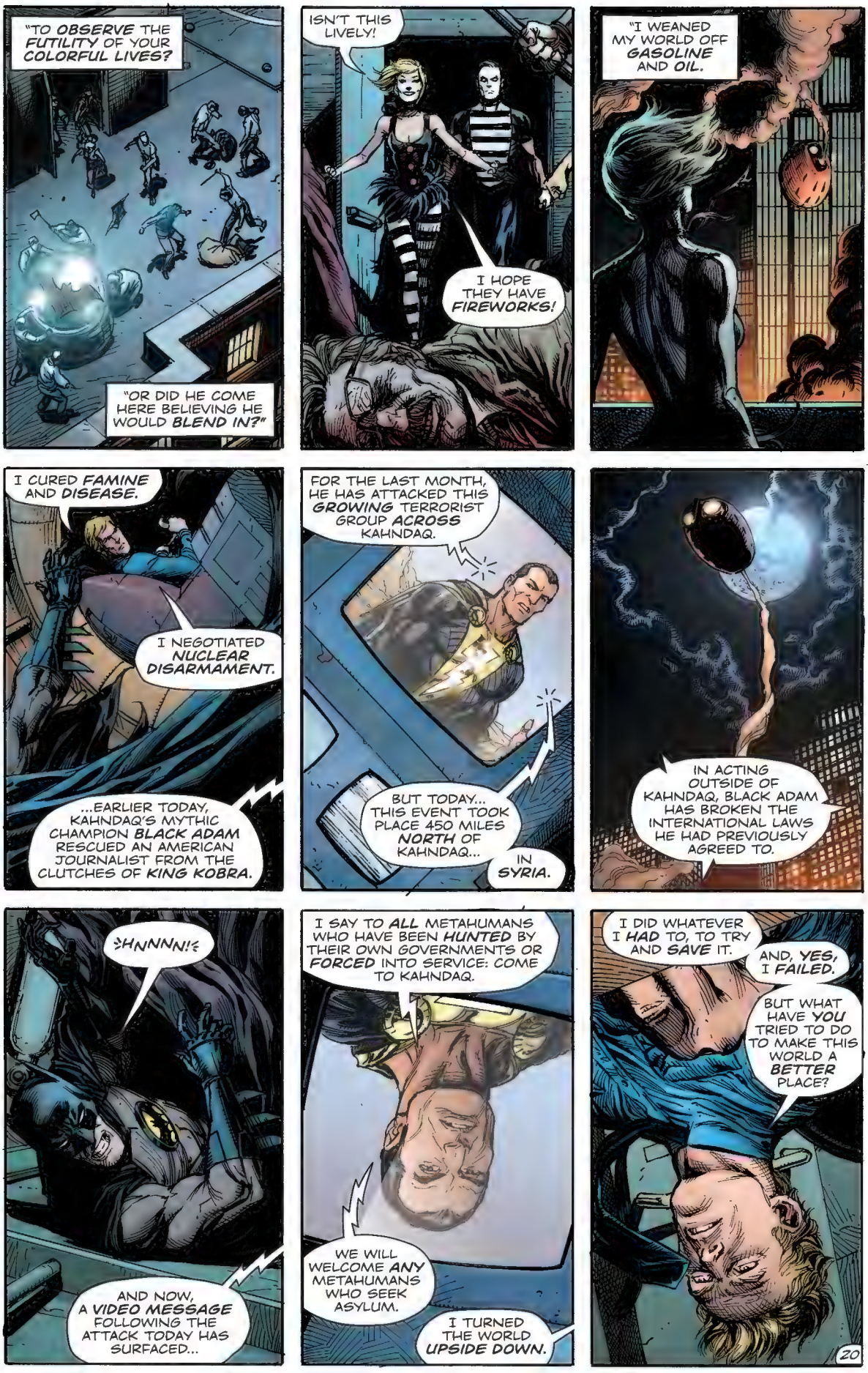
AND WE CAN DO THAT BY STARTING AT THE TOP.
THE TOP?
YES. YOU SEE, I'VE LEARNED THE PERSON WHO'S CREATED THESE METAHUMANS FOR THE GOVERNMENT IS THEMSELF A METAHUMAN.
I DON'T KNOW THEIR NAME, BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING ABOUT THEM.


AT SOME POINT IN TIME... THEY WERE A MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

LAST STOP!
HEY, BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, POPS.
THIS ISN'T THE BEST NEIGHBORHOOD, Y'KNOW?
THERE IS NO FUTURE. THERE IS NO PAST.
QUIT PULLIN' ON MY LEG!
I'M TRYIN' TA SLEEP!
NO ENTRY
DANGER
NOTICE
DO NOT ENTER
WARN
UNSTABLE
17

THEY MUST HAVE TRIED TO MELT IT DOWN WITH THE REST OF THE SCRAP...
THIS PLACE IS LOADED!
WE CAN SELL THIS SHIT. GET SOME CASH.
HAHAHAHA.
YEAH!
HEY, WAIT A SECOND!
WHO'S THAT?
HE SECURITY?
SECURITY? NAW. HE'S LOST.
MAYBE HE'S GOT SOMETHIN'!
YEAH! YOU GOT SOMETHIN', OLD MAN?!
NO. I'M SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING.
I'M LOOKING FOR MY FRIENDS.
GIMME WHAT YOU GOT!
GIMME YOUR WALLET BEFORE I POKE OUT YOUR EYES!
AAA!
PLEASE! PLEASE, LEAVE ME ALONE!
HELP!
LOOKIT THE OLD FART GO!
HAHAHA!
WE'LL GIVE YOU A FIVE-SECOND LEAD!


YOUR WORLD IS WORSE OFF THAN MINE EVER WAS...
"LOOK AT THE SHEER NUMBER OF YOU LOST IN THE NARRATIVE OF GOOD VERSUS BAD.
"WANDERING AIMLESSLY IN A FOG OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.
YOU'RE SO BUSY PUTTING THESE "SUPER-VILLAINS" INTO PRISONS WITH REVOLVING DOORS, YOU'VE IGNORED THE WORLD'S REAL PROBLEMS.
"AND NOW YOU'RE ALL CAUGHT IN THIS VICIOUS CYCLE OF ENTERTAINING YOURSELVES."
STOP IT. THEY'RE POLICE.
YOU CLING TO A SIMPLISTIC MORALITY BASED ON PULP HEROES.
I WONDER.
IS THAT WHY JON CAME HERE?


"TO OBSERVE THE FUTILITY OF YOUR COLORFUL LIVES?
"OR DID HE COME HERE BELIEVING HE WOULD BLEND IN?"
ISN'T THIS LIVELY!
I HOPE THEY HAVE FIREWORKS!
"I WEANED MY WORLD OFF GASOLINE AND OIL.
I CURED FAMINE AND DISEASE.
I NEGOTIATED NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.
...EARLIER TODAY, KAHNDAQ'S MYTHIC CHAMPION BLACK ADAM RESCUED AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST FROM THE CLUTCHES OF KING KOBRA.
FOR THE LAST MONTH, HE HAS ATTACKED THIS GROWING TERRORIST GROUP ACROSS KAHNDAQ.
BUT TODAY... THIS EVENT TOOK PLACE 450 MILES NORTH OF KAHNDAQ...
IN SYRIA.
IN ACTING OUTSIDE OF KAHNDAQ, BLACK ADAM HAS BROKEN THE INTERNATIONAL LAWS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO.
HNNNN!
AND NOW, A VIDEO MESSAGE FOLLOWING THE ATTACK TODAY HAS SURFACED...
I SAY TO ALL METAHUMANS WHO HAVE BEEN HUNTED BY THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS OR FORCED INTO SERVICE: COME TO KAHNDAQ.
WE WILL WELCOME ANY METAHUMANS WHO SEEK ASYLUM.
I TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.
I DID WHATEVER I HAD TO, TO TRY AND SAVE IT.
AND, YES, I FAILED.
BUT WHAT HAVE YOU TRIED TO DO TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE?
20

"THERE HE IS!"
WE GOT YOU, OLD MAN!
:HF:
:HF:
:HF!:
"WE GOT YOU!"
:HF:...
"IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY!"
STOP
21

I FOUND IT!
AAA!
PLEASE...
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID OLD MAN!
22

EEEAAAAGGG!

NYAAA!
MR. THUNDER?

HE...HE'S...
OH, DON'T YOU WORRY.
THEY WERE ALL GOING TO OVERDOSE TONIGHT ANYWAY.

EVERYTHING EVENS OUT.
AAARR...

OH, THIS IS FUN.

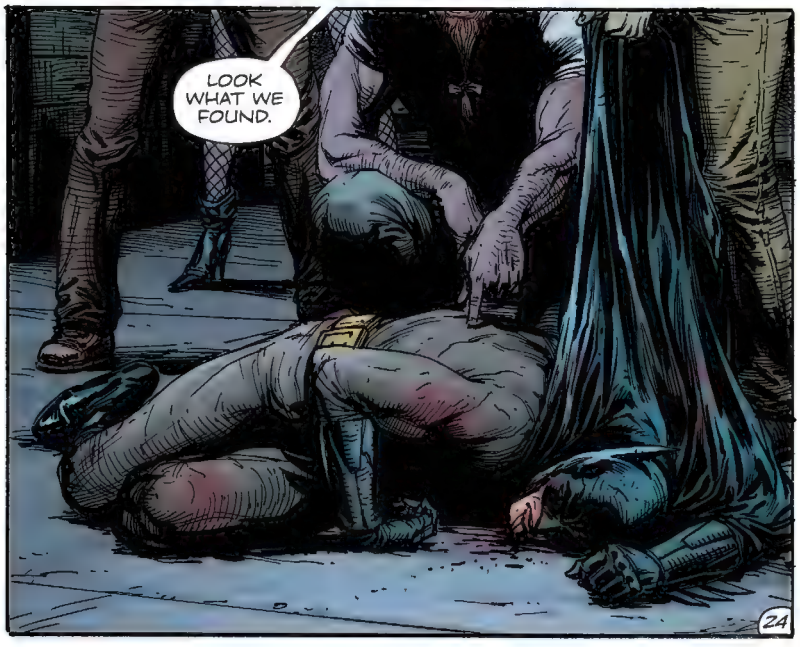
AND ROMANTIC.

YOU TWO...

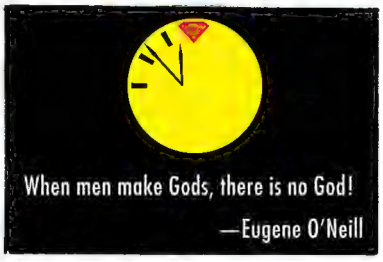
YOU'VE CAUSED ME A LITTLE TROUBLE TONIGHT.

HEY, BOSS!
I'M MONOLOGUING.
BUT YOU GOTTA SEE THIS...

TELL US. EXPLAIN.


LOOK WHAT WE FOUND.

WHAT IS LANTERN?


When men make Gods, there is no God!
—Eugene O'Neill

VOLUME 710

MAY 30, 2019

# TROUBLE ALERT

SPECIAL REPORT

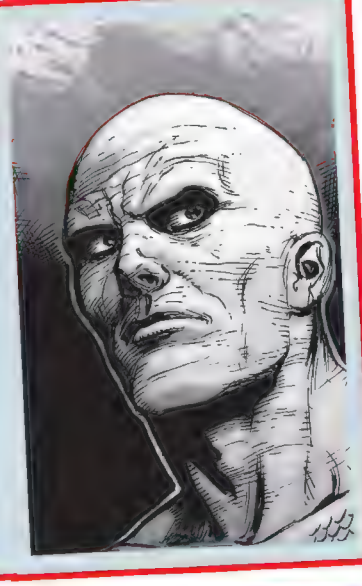
## The Metahuman Menace

GOOD LIFE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY
1940 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10029

# The Rise of the Metahuman-American

Is it true there can be too much of a good thing? Over 97 percent of the world's metahumans identify themselves as American. The Supermen Theory proposes that the United States government, inspired by Superman, established the Department of Metahuman Affairs and began a decade-long program to create their own superhuman soldiers. The Department identified those with a metagene (labeled meta-positive) and put these test subjects through acts of "distress" in hopes of triggering their metagene. Once transformed, these metahumans are assigned to a scripted "super-hero and super-villain" narrative, training in plain sight, but ready to be called into action by the U.S. government at any time. The President has continued to deny these accusations, recently calling the Supermen Theory "total trash." However, many metahumans have already stepped forward and admitted their involvement. TROUBLE ALERT continues its running tally.

## METAMORPHO

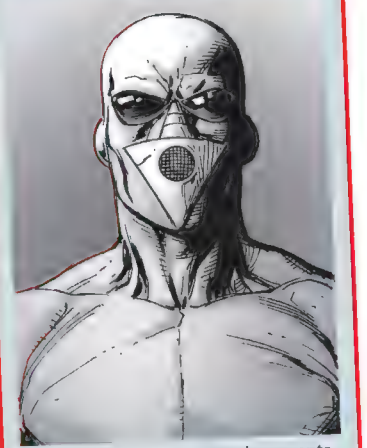


During a tax fraud investigation into industrialist Simon Stagg, government documents from the Department of Metahuman Affairs leaked to the public revealing an elaborate ruse: Soldier-for-hire Rex Mason was identified as meta-positive by the department and purposely exposed to an ancient energy source in an attempt to trigger his metamorphosis into a metahuman. Dubbed **Metamorpho**, Mason is considered the first manufactured super-hero. Found guilty of tax fraud, Simon Stagg fled the country and is currently missing, along with Metamorpho.

**Over 97% of the world's metahumans are American. But those numbers look to be changing.**



## DOC DREAD

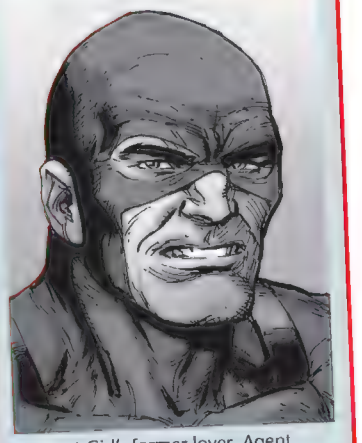


According to government documents, one of the members of Metamorpho's rogues gallery was in fact Rex Mason's childhood friend, Bobby Fradon. Recruited to play the part of a super-villain, Fradon donned the garb of "**Doc Dread**" and wielded a variety of chemical weapons.

## ELEMENT GIRL

Agent Urania "Rainie" Blackwell was a spy for the United States, recruited by the Department of Metahuman Affairs after they discovered she was meta-positive. Exposed to the same ancient energy source as Rex Mason, Blackwell was transformed into **Element Girl**. Revealed to be unstable, she was discharged from her position. She later committed suicide.

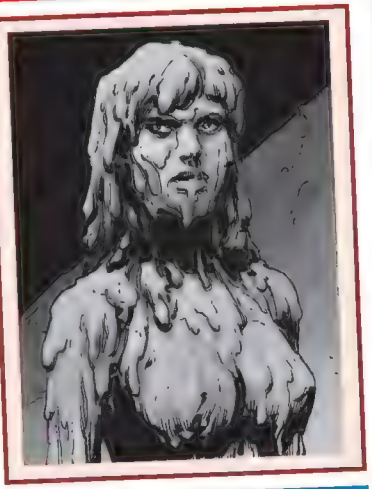
## STINGAREE



Element Girl's former lover, Agent Samuel Reese, was recruited to play the role of a crime lord to battle Metamorpho. He died in a helicopter crash not long after.

## LADY CLAYFACE

Sondra Fuller was a member of a cell of the terrorist group King Kobra. Later recruited as a double agent by the Department of Metahuman Affairs, Fuller underwent what she says were horrific experiments in order to trigger her metagene.



## MAN-BAT

Dr. Kirk Langstrom's research was funded by the Department of Metahuman Affairs. Transforming into the monstrous **Man-Bat**, Dr. Langstrom vanished after he went public with his connection to the Supermen Theory.

## FIRESTORM

His secret origin unrevealed, **Firestorm** has denied any ties to the Department of Metahuman Affairs or the Supermen Theory. Like his Russian counterpart, Pozhar, Firestorm is a being of immense power, the limits of which are unknown.

## KILLER FROST

Dr. Louise Lincoln recently stepped forward, claiming both she and her "enemy" Firestorm were created by the Department of Metahuman Affairs. She has continued to identify several other metahumans as part of the Department's program, including Captain Atom, Firehawk, Moonbow and Typhoon.

# The Metahuman Arms Race Heats Up



RUSSIA

## THE PEOPLE'S HEROES

*Black Eagle*
*Firebird*
*Lady Flash*
*Morozko*
*Negative Woman*
*Perun*
*Red Star*
*Rusalka*
*Snow Owl*
*Steel Wolf*
*Tundra*
*Vikhor*
*Vostok*

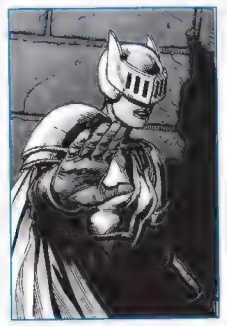
**POZHAR** Mikhail Denisovitch Arkadin, a husband and father, was thought killed in Chernobyl in 1986. Years later, he returned as a living nuclear reactor. Nearly impervious and able to transmute elements, the upper limitations of Pozhar's powers remain untested.

## JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE

*Fleur-de-Lis*
*The Hunchback*
*Musketeer*
*Nightrunner*
*Thief of Arts*

**CRIMSON FOX** After being cleared of murder, Crimson Fox returned to Paris and was quickly designated the leader of Justice League Europe. Once linked to Metamorpho romantically, she again finds herself in the middle of controversy. With superhuman strength, speed, reflexes and claws that can cut through promethium, she remains one of the world's most underestimated metahumans.

FRANCE



## KNIGHTS INC.

*Beaumont*
*Canterbury Cricket*
*Crusader*
*Godiva*
*Golden Pharaoh*
*The Hood*
*Jack O'Lantern*
*Looking Glass*
*Lionheart*
*Mrs. Hyde*
*Ridge*
*Silent Knight*
*The Squire*
*Templar*

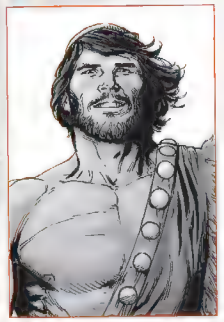
**THE KNIGHT** Little is known of the newest person to take on the identity of the Knight save that she is the first female to do so. Ordained by the Queen, Knights Inc. has rapidly grown, protecting the borders of the United Kingdom.

UNITED KINGDOM

ISRAEL

## HAYOTH

*Dybbuk*
*Golem*
*Judith*
*Pteradon*
*Ramban*



**SERAPH** The controversial Israeli metahuman known as Seraph claims to wield the Staff of Moses, the mantle of Elijah and the ring of Solomon. Leader of the metahuman group Hayoth, Seraph has kept the true number of his teammates a secret. It is rumored that the three most powerful metahumans on the planet are members of Hayoth. However, there is speculation that this is little more than propaganda created by the Israeli government.

## THE OUTSIDERS

*Baroness Bedlam*
*The Eradicator*
*Knightfall*
*Terra IV*
*Wylde*

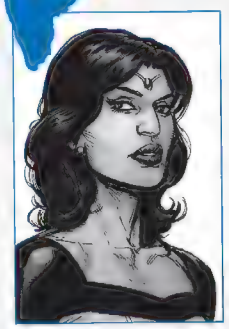
MARKOVIA

**GEO-FORCE** Royal leader of Markovia, Prince Brion Markov was one of the first meta-humans created outside of America's programs. Dr. Helga Jace, author of the Supermen Theory, transformed the young prince into a metahuman. With power over gravity and the Earth itself, Geo-Force became Markovia's protector and an international hero. He once worked alongside the Batman, something Prince Markov has publicly denied.

INDIA

## THE DOOMED

*Aalok of the Komeriah*
*Animal-Vegetable-Mineral Man*
*Aruna*
*Beast Girl*
*Maya*
*Solstice*
*Son of Kalki*



**CELSIUS** Arani Desai lived on the streets of Calcutta for most of her young life. When she fell ill with a mysterious disease, she was treated by famed scientist Dr. Niles Caulder. Gaining the ability to alter the temperature around her to great extremes, she was briefly a member of the Doom Patrol before disappearing. Once thought dead, she now searches the streets of India for those in need of help, particularly the children so easily preyed upon.

CHINA

## THE GREAT TWENTY

*Accomplished*
*Perfect Physician*
*Bat-Man*
*August General in Iron*
*Celestial Archer*
*Dao*
*The Flash*
*Ghost Fox Killer*
*Gloss*
*Guanxi*
*Immortal Man in Darkness*
*Mother of Champions*
*Night-Dragon*
*Ri*
*Seven Deadly Brothers*
*Shaolin Robot*
*Socialist Red Guardsman*
*Striker Z*
*Thundermind*
*Wonder-Woman*

**THE NEW SUPER-MAN** Kong Kenan was recently revealed to be the name behind China's Super-Man. There are several different stories circulating about the New Super-Man's origins, many of which indicate he has no connection to Superman himself.

### In the wake of the Supermen Theory

Theory, countries across the world have turned their attention and resources away from nuclear arsenals and toward building metahuman armies. World leaders are aggressively pursuing and recruiting metahumans. Some are even scanning their populace, thanks to new technology by Lexcorp, in hopes of finding those rare few with a metagene. Once identified meta-positive, the subjects are put through "traumatic events" in an attempt to trigger metamorphosis into a metahuman. The metahumans listed here do not represent every foreign metahuman, but those known to be aligned with their government.

# The Troubled Past—and Future—of Kahndaq

Once the most dangerous nation in the world, Kahndaq now appears to be the safest. At least for those who live within it. Located on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, Kahndaq has been plagued for centuries by dictators, civil wars and genocide...until an ancient myth, that of the Mighty Adam, became a reality.

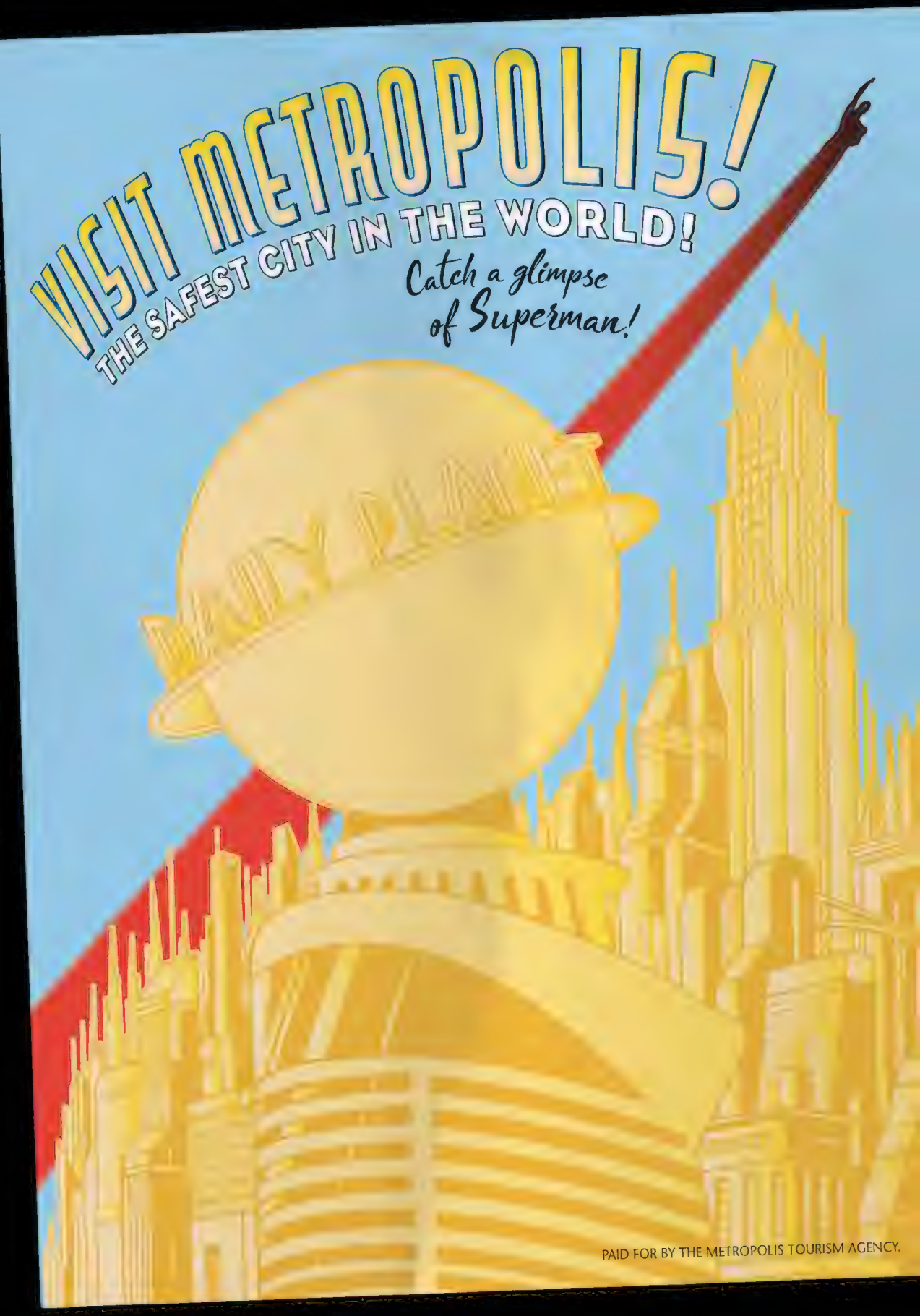
**Confirmed satellite sightings of unregistered metahumans in Kahndaq**

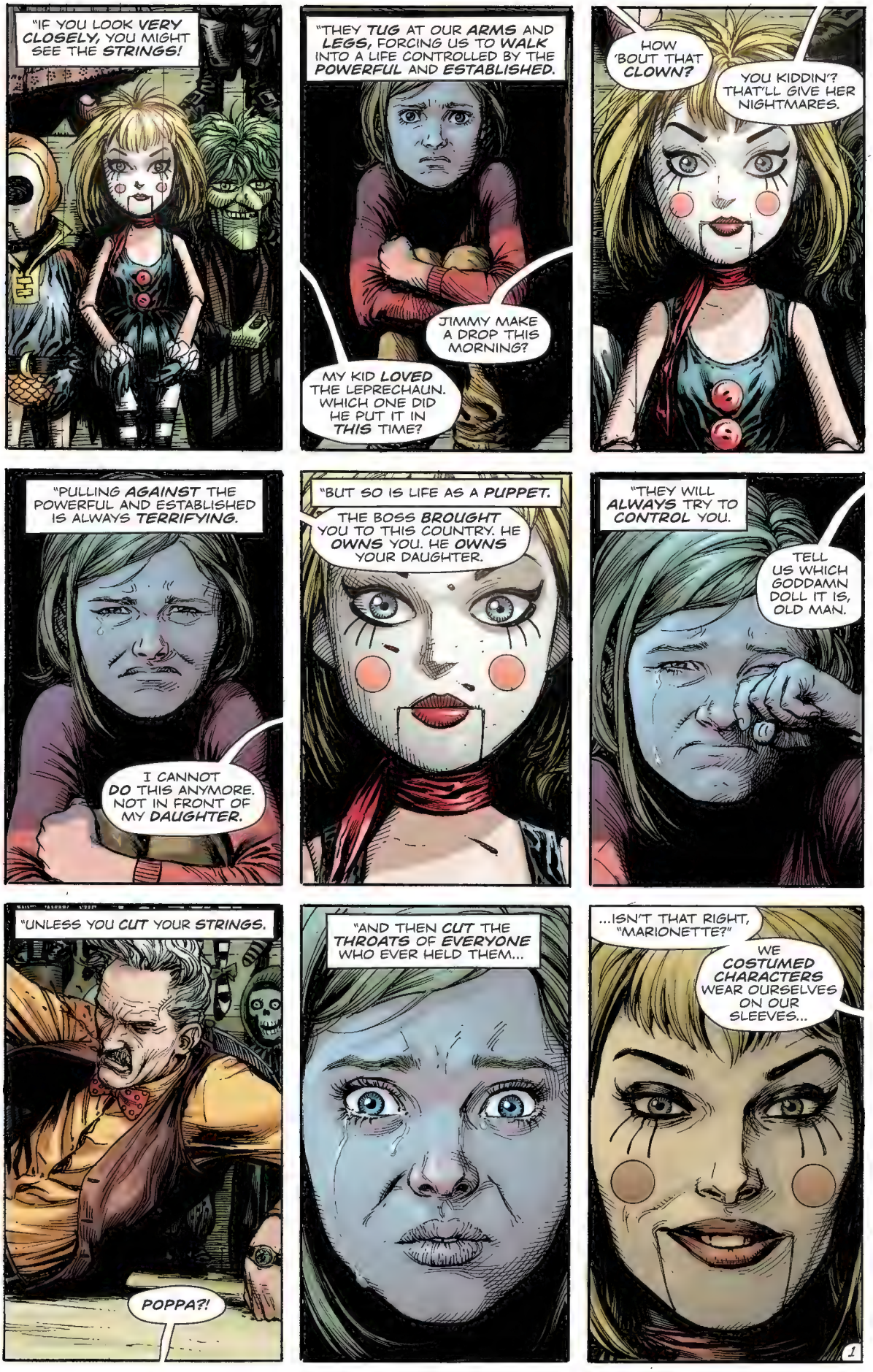
## A "Super" Invitation

In a recent message that surfaced online, Black Adam offered asylum to metahumans from across the world. Concern grows as to what Adam's true intentions are. Is he creating a metahuman army of his own? Do his actions in Syria indicate a desire to act outside of Kahndaq? And with all of the tension in the world focused on the Metahuman Arms Race, will there be anyone there to stop him? And the most controversial question of them all: If Kahndaq has indeed become a place of peace and prosperity under his rule...should they?

## BLACK ADAM, SAVIOR OR SINNER?

There is a legend in Kahndaq about a magical champion called the Mighty Adam who helped free the people from slavery and the rule of Prince Ahk-Ton. But their freedom was short-lived as the Mighty Adam disappeared soon after. Thousands of years later, a man claiming to be the Mighty Adam, now calling himself Black Adam, reappeared. He battled the Shazam family in Philadelphia before returning to Kahndaq where he confronted and slaughtered the then-dictator and his army. In confrontations with more of America's metahumans, Adam agreed to stay within the borders of Kahndaq, a country where he was celebrated as a hero. However, the day the U.S. and Russian militaries began to withdraw from the Middle East, Adam entered Syria to confront King Kobra.

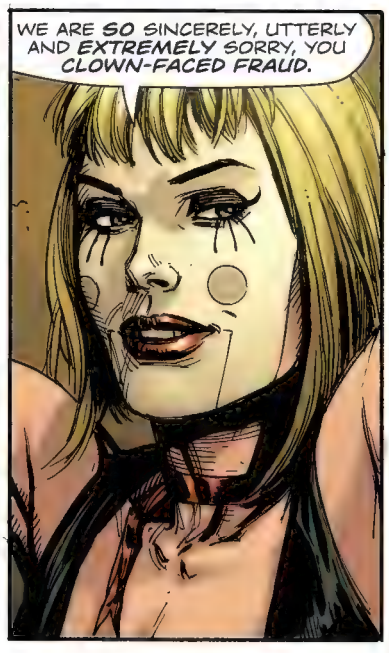

VISIT METROPOLIS!
THE SAFEST CITY IN THE WORLD!
Catch a glimpse of Superman!
PAID FOR BY THE METROPOLIS TOURISM AGENCY.


"IF YOU LOOK VERY CLOSELY, YOU MIGHT SEE THE STRINGS!
"THEY TUG AT OUR ARMS AND LEGS, FORCING US TO WALK INTO A LIFE CONTROLLED BY THE POWERFUL AND ESTABLISHED.
JIMMY MAKE A DROP THIS MORNING?
MY KID LOVED THE LEPRECHAUN. WHICH ONE DID HE PUT IT IN THIS TIME?
HOW 'BOUT THAT CLOWN?
YOU KIDDIN'? THAT'LL GIVE HER NIGHTMARES.
"PULLING AGAINST THE POWERFUL AND ESTABLISHED IS ALWAYS TERRIFYING.
I CANNOT DO THIS ANYMORE. NOT IN FRONT OF MY DAUGHTER.
"BUT SO IS LIFE AS A PUPPET.
THE BOSS BROUGHT YOU TO THIS COUNTRY. HE OWNS YOU. HE OWNS YOUR DAUGHTER.
"THEY WILL ALWAYS TRY TO CONTROL YOU.
TELL US WHICH GODDAMN DOLL IT IS, OLD MAN.
"UNLESS YOU CUT YOUR STRINGS.
POPPA?!
"AND THEN CUT THE THROATS OF EVERYONE WHO EVER HELD THEM...
...ISN'T THAT RIGHT, "MARIONETTE?"
WE COSTUMED CHARACTERS WEAR OURSELVES ON OUR SLEEVES...

...BUT I CAN'T HAVE YOU AND CAT-GOT-HIS-TONGUE CARTWHEELING AROUND TOWN AND SLAUGHTERING MY MEN LIKE PIGS.
IT MAKES ME LOOK BAD.
MY BOYS AND GIRLS ARE CLEARLY MARKED. MEANING NO ONE TOUCHES THEM... EXCEPT FOR ME.
OUR MISTAKE. WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
I WOULD HOPE NOT. NORMALLY, I WOULD'VE ALREADY CARVED OFF YOUR FACES AND STITCHED THEM INTO A SUN HAT, BUT I'M IN A GOOD MOOD.
THE BAT... AT LAST... IS MINE!

# TRULY LAUGH

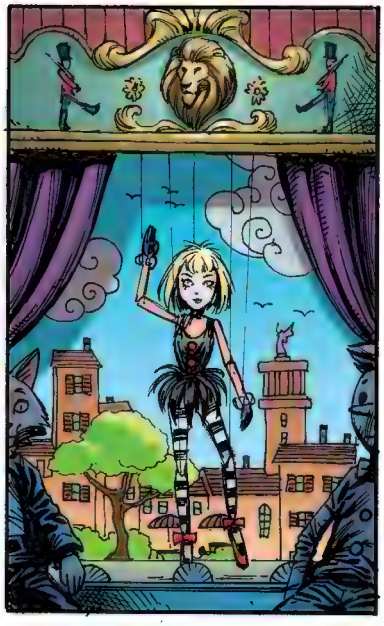
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS TO DO THAT I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.
JUH... JUH...
A FEW PICTURES MAYBE?

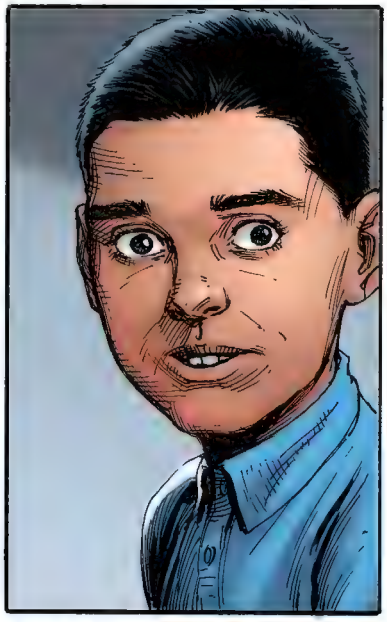

WE ARE SO SINCERELY, UTTERLY AND EXTREMELY SORRY, YOU CLOWN-FACED FRAUD.

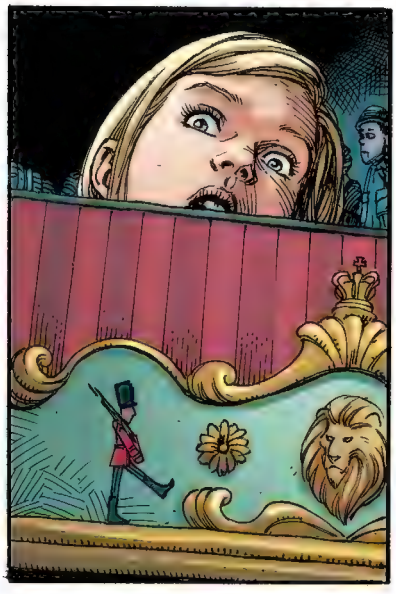
APOLOGY NOT ACCEPTED, YOU HORRIBLE LITTLE THING!
I WONDER... DID HARLEY SEND YOU TO KILL ME? MY BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP.
SHIT! IS THAT HIM?!

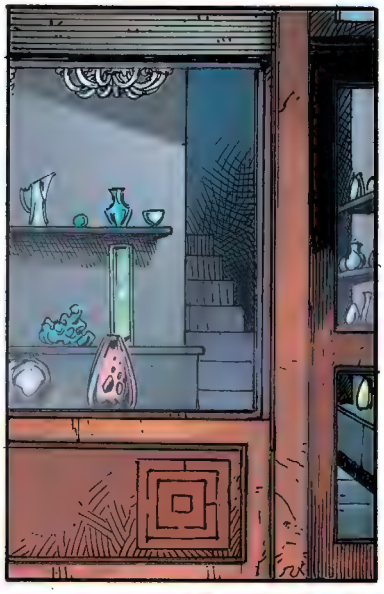
OH CHRIST. HE'S LOOKIN' THIS WAY.
HA HA HA!
HE SEES US.
I ASSUME YOU'RE REFERRING TO ME...
OR ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT BATSY HERE?
NO NEED!
HE'LL BE PARALYZED FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS THANKS TO MY OWN SPECIAL BLEND OF NERVE TOXINS. I CALL IT RELAX-A-BAT!
YOU TOLD US YOU KNEW WHERE WE WERE GOIN', BRIAN.
FREEZE HAS SHIT FOR HANDWRITING. I CAN'T READ HIS DIRECTIONS!
YOU TRIED WRITING WITH THESE GLOVES? IT AIN'T EASY.
HE'S WHEELING HIM OVER HERE.
WHAT DO WE DO?!
BOYS! BOYS! THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID.
UH, YES, SIR. MR. JOKER, SIR.
WHERE'S THAT BROKENHEARTED, BALD BOSS OF YOURS?
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO LINK UP ON THE WAY TO THE MEETING, BUT WE WERE LATE ON ACCOUNT OF THE RIOTS.
AND NOW WE CAN'T FIND HIM.
WE HEARD THE FEDS SNATCHED UP BANE. WE WERE THINKIN' MAYBE THEY GOT FREEZE, TOO.
THEN I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU LOST SOULS. A FRIGHTENINGLY DELICIOUS, WONDERFUL PROPOSITION...
DITCH THE PARKAS AND JOIN THE JOKER!
THESE ARE GODDAMN HOT.
AND FOR ALL WE KNOW FREEZE IS DEAD...
ARE YOU BOTH OUTTA YOUR MINDS? AT LEAST FREEZE IS PREDICTABLE. SAVE HIS WIFE. ROB TO PAY FOR IT. BLAH BLAH BLAH!
BUT THE JOKER... WHO KNOWS WHAT HE EVER WANTS?
SHAKEY! WHERE ARE YOU, PUMPKIN?
RUH-RIGHT HERE, MUH-MASTER...
...AND RUH-READY TO WELCOME OUR NUH-NEWBIES INTO THE CIRCUS!
STEP RIGHT UP AND PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER!
THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
3

"JOIN NOW AND ALL OF YOUR WORRIES WILL BE A THING OF THE PAST!"
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE NEEDS A FRIEND.
WHAT, POPPA?
YOUR MARIONETTE. SHE IS WALKING ALONE, NO?
WELL, YES.
THEN A FRIEND FOR HER WOULD BE NICE.
HOW ABOUT THE RULER OF EGYPT... CLEOPATRA! OR THE MAID OF ORLÉANS... JOAN OF ARC!
I LIKE ANNE BONNY!
HA HA HA. A PIRATE IT IS THEN!
POPPA...
YES?
THE NEW STORE ACROSS THE STREET...
IAEZ GLASS
IT'S OPEN!
I THINK THERE'S A BOY OVER THERE.
IS THERE NOW?
ARMS
YES. DEFINITELY A BOY...
¡ÉL ES TU HIJO! ¡ÉL ES UN BICHO RARO!
¡NO DIGAS ESO DELANTE DE ÉL!
"WELL, WHY NOT GO OVER AND SAY HELLO?"
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA!
4



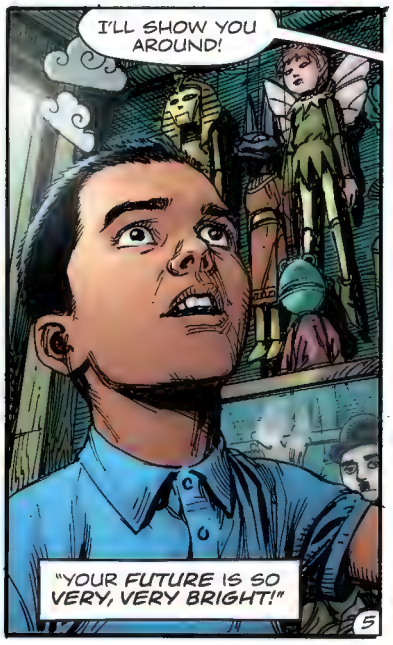






OH! UM, HI.
HELLO...?
MY NAME'S ERIKA. WHO ARE YOU?

I KNOW. THE SHOP LEAVES A LOT OF PEOPLE SPEECHLESS THE FIRST TIME THEY SEE IT!
THIS IS MY DAD'S STORE. THE PUPPET PLACE.
C'MON. YOU CAN COME IN!

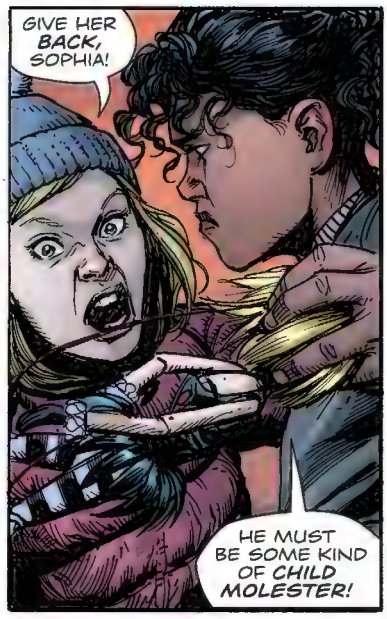

I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND!
"YOUR FUTURE IS SO VERY, VERY BRIGHT!"

LET'S PUT A SMILE ON THAT FACE!
NO! WAIT!
AAAAIEEE!
ALL RIGHT THEN. I'M IN A GENEROUS MOOD. APOLOGY ACCEPTED, YOU TWO.
YAAAAAAA!
WHICH ONE OF YOU WANTS TO GO NEXT?
AS IN TATTOOED BY MR. JITTERS OVER THERE?
PASS.
MY GUN?!
HEY, MIME!
LET'S TEACH THEM HOW TO WINK!
WHA...
AAAA!
6

OH NO!
OH MY!
DON'T LOSE YOUR HEADS, BOYS!
THAT'S WHY THEY CALL HIM THE JOKER?
BECAUSE THAT WAS A BIT ON THE NOSE.
LET HIM GO!
OOOPS.
THAT'S EMBARRASSING.
HA HA HA HA!
I'M JOKING. WELL PLAYED!
COME ON NOW, EVERYONE... WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATER THAN WE ALREADY ARE!
"...GOT NO STRINGS..."

DA DA DA DA! DA DEE DEE DEE!
THERE ARE NO STR--
WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT, ERIKA?

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SMILING?
WHY SHOULDN'T I?
BECAUSE IT CREEPS ME OUT. IT CREEPS EVERYONE OUT. LIKE YOUR DAD DOES.
WHAT KIND OF CREEPY OLD MAN PLAYS WITH TOYS?

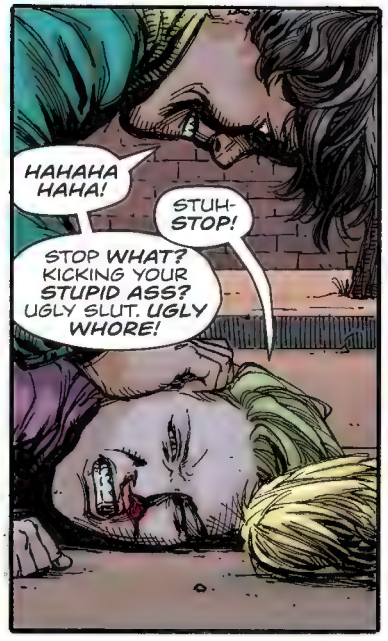

GIVE HER BACK, SOPHIA!
HE MUST BE SOME KIND OF CHILD MOLESTER!

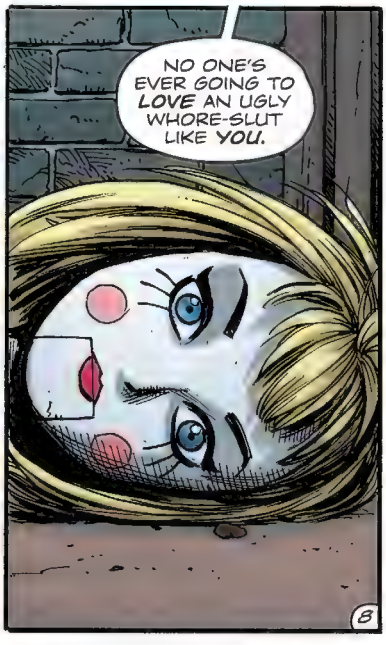
MY POPPA'S A GOOD MAN!
HEY! GET OFF! GET OFFA HER!

YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT HIM LIKE THAT!

LEMME GO!
YOU UGLY SLUT!

:NNN:


HAHAHA HAHA!
STUH-STOP!
STOP WHAT? KICKING YOUR STUPID ASS? UGLY SLUT. UGLY WHORE!


NO ONE'S EVER GOING TO LOVE AN UGLY WHORE-SLUT LIKE YOU.
8

AAAAA!
HAHAHAHA! LET'S GIVE HER DOLL A HAIRCUT.
LET'S CUT THE SLUT'S HAIR FIRST!
GIVE ME YOUR KNIFE!
EEEEE!
MY HEAD! HE CUH-CUT OPEN MY HEAD!
NO! NO, DON'T!
GAA!
CALL AN AMBULANCE!
SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!
I GOT YOU!
TAKE HER! TAKE YOUR STUPID PUPPET!
SAY SORRY FOR WHAT YOU SAID!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
GOT ANY MORE BOTTLES?
"JUST NOD YES OR SHAKE YOUR HEAD NO."
ARE YOU TWO COMING?
9

WHERE ARE WE GOING EXACTLY?
TO THE BIG, IMPORTANT MEETING!
WHY, IT'S RIGHT BEHIND THIS CURTAIN... OR IS THIS THE DOORWAY TO CERTAIN DEATH?
HAHAHA! I'LL GO FIRST!
ALL THIS TALK ABOUT THE SUPERMEN THEORY HAS GOTTEN EVERYONE'S TIGHTS IN A BUNCH!
SO THEY'RE HUDDLING UP AS THE LEGION OF EVIL OR THE SECRET SOCIETY OF DOOM OR WHATEVER NAME DU JOUR THEY'VE LANDED ON THIS TIME.
IT'S ALL A BIT MELODRAMATIC, IF YOU ASK ME.
BUT THAT SEEMS TO BE YOUR THING, TOO.
LET'S WHEEL BATSY DOWN THERE AND SURPRISE THEM!
UH-OH. I SEE FREEZE.
HE AIN'T GONNA BE HAPPY 'BOUT THESE TATTOOS.
I DON'T THINK THAT NEEDLE WAS CLEAN.
LOOK AT THIS LIVELY GROUP!
EACH ONE OF US IS IN THIS FOR A DIFFERENT REASON. PASSION. REVENGE. WEALTH. POWER.
BUT ANSWER ME THIS! IS IT SAFE TO OPERATE ALONE?
HELL NO.
YOU ALL HEARD WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FIRST TATTOOED MAN AT THAT SANCTUARY PLACE? IT'S SCREWED UP.
THE LANTERN'S OTHER ADVERSARIES HAVE LEFT FOR THE STARS.
AND THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THE AMAZONS KIDNAPPED WONDER WOMAN AND DRAGGED HER BACK TO THEMYSCIRA.
THOSE THAT CAN...ARE RETREATING.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD, TOO.
TO KAHNDAQ.

HEY, ANY OF YOU WANT A SHORCUT TO KAHNDAQ, MIRROR MASTER WILL GET YA THERE...FOR THE RIGHT PRICE, OF COURSE.
I WOULDN'T BE TAKIN' BLACK ADAM AT HIS WORD, SNART.

REST OF THE SQUAD WENT M.I.A. LAST WEEK IN KAHNDAQ. BARELY GOT OUT ALIVE MESELF.
WE ALL KNOW YOU WERE ON AN ASSASSINATION MISSION, BOOMERANG.

I'M CERTAIN BLACK ADAM DIDN'T TAKE TOO KINDLY TO THAT.
YOU SHOULD FEAR HIM... BUT WE CAN BELIEVE IN HIM. HE DOES NOT LIE.
KAHNDAQ IS THE ANSWER.

MY COURT IS NOT ABANDONING GOTHAM, SIVANA.
I'VE FINALLY RETURNED TO LEAD THEM.
THE JUDGE OF OWLS SPEAKS.
THE JUDGE MUST BE OBEYED.
LET'S NOT FORGET WHY GOTHAM AND THE WORLD ARE TEETERING ON THE EDGE OF WAR.

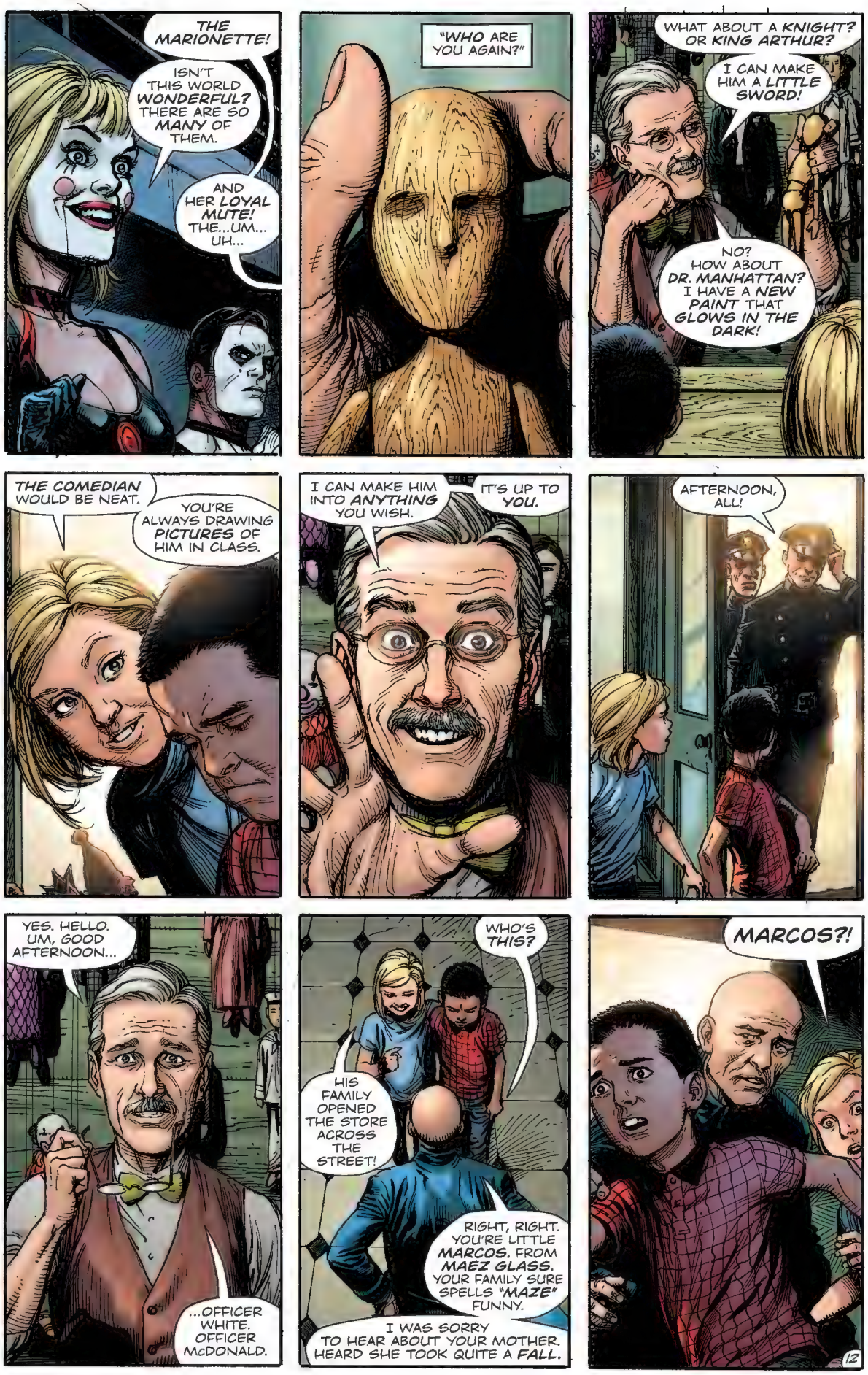
IT IS BECAUSE OF TRAITORS LIKE TYPHOON AND MOONBOW.
KILLER FROST IS LYING. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SUPERMEN THEORY.
HEY, DON'T POINT AT ME. I'M NOT WITH THEM.

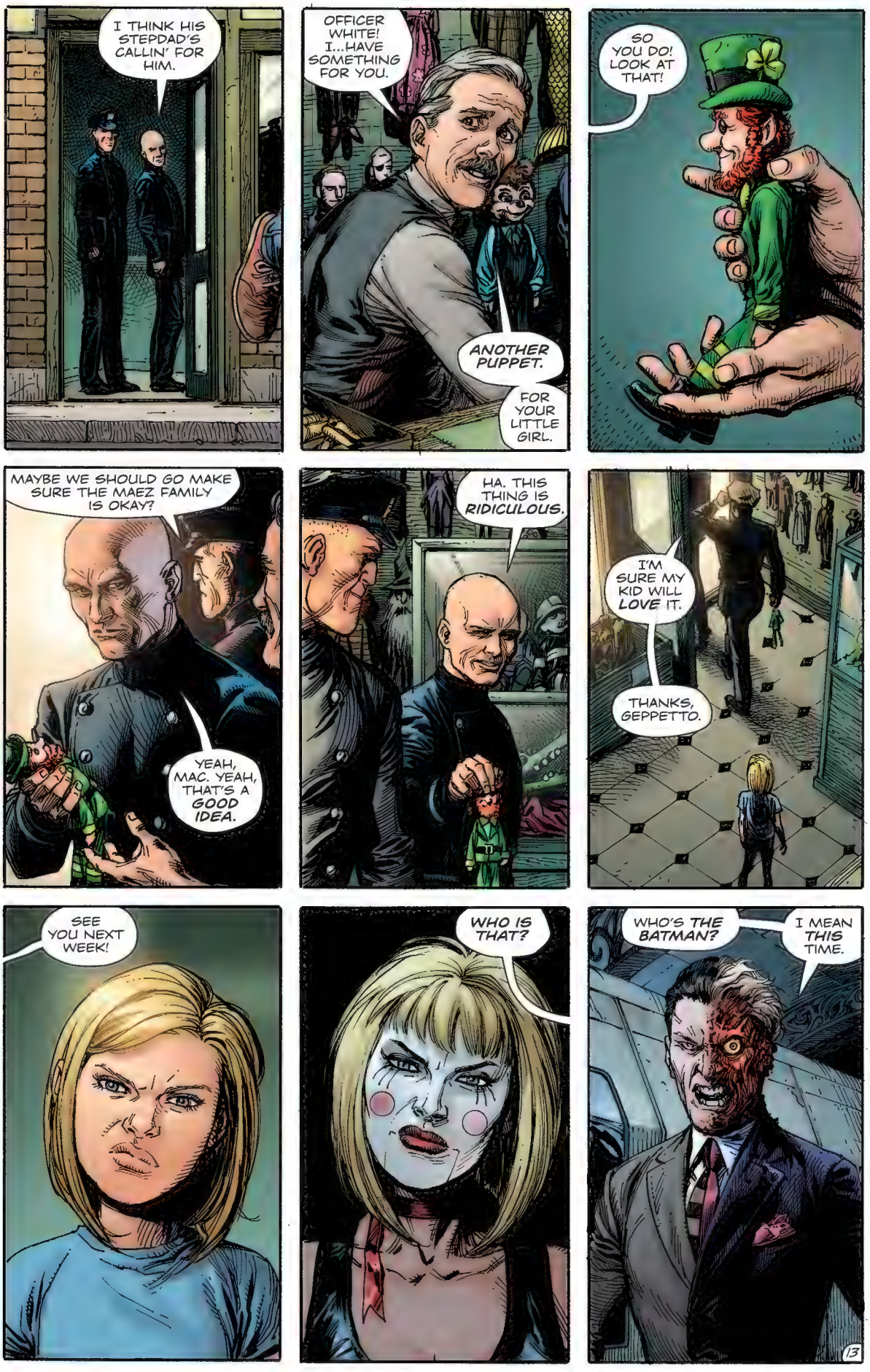
I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS, TYPHOON...HOW EXACTLY DID YOU ACQUIRE THESE POWERS OF YOURS?

I GOT BLOWN UP IN A NUCLEAR BATHYSPHERE!
I'M NOT SOME GOVERNMENT PUPPET!
NOR I, GOD KNOWS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
NOT HIM. NOT NOW.
THIS IS MY MOMENT.

I INTERRUPT THIS RATHER REPETITIVE AFFAIR TO BRING A SMILE TO ALL YOUR FACES!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY NEWEST FRIENDS...


THE MARIONETTE!
ISN'T THIS WORLD WONDERFUL? THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM.
AND HER LOYAL MUTE! THE...UM... UH...
"WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?"
WHAT ABOUT A KNIGHT? OR KING ARTHUR?
I CAN MAKE HIM A LITTLE SWORD!
NO? HOW ABOUT DR. MANHATTAN? I HAVE A NEW PAINT THAT GLOWS IN THE DARK!
THE COMEDIAN WOULD BE NEAT.
YOU'RE ALWAYS DRAWING PICTURES OF HIM IN CLASS.
I CAN MAKE HIM INTO ANYTHING YOU WISH.
IT'S UP TO YOU.
AFTERNOON, ALL!
YES. HELLO. UM, GOOD AFTERNOON...
...OFFICER WHITE. OFFICER McDONALD.
WHO'S THIS?
HIS FAMILY OPENED THE STORE ACROSS THE STREET!
RIGHT, RIGHT. YOU'RE LITTLE MARCOS. FROM MAEZ GLASS. YOUR FAMILY SURE SPELLS "MAZE" FUNNY.
I WAS SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR MOTHER. HEARD SHE TOOK QUITE A FALL.
MARCOS?!
12


I THINK HIS STEPDAD'S CALLIN' FOR HIM.
OFFICER WHITE! I...HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
ANOTHER PUPPET.
FOR YOUR LITTLE GIRL.
SO YOU DO! LOOK AT THAT!
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO MAKE SURE THE MAEZ FAMILY IS OKAY?
YEAH, MAC. YEAH, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
HA. THIS THING IS RIDICULOUS.
I'M SURE MY KID WILL LOVE IT.
THANKS, GEPPETTO.
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!
WHO IS THAT?
WHO'S THE BATMAN?
I MEAN THIS TIME.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THIS TIME, HARVEY?
HOW MANY FOOLS HAVE YOU DRESSED UP LIKE BATMAN AND PEDDLED AROUND, JOKER?
A FEW, I ADMIT...
I BET IT'S ANOTHER ONE OF ARKHAM'S GUARDS!
LET'S SEE!
PLEASE STAY ON TOPIC!
AND ON ME.
BEFORE WE MAKE A DECISION ON WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO AS THE LEAGUE OF VILLAINY, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT NONE OF US ARE TWO-FACED RATS.
NO OFFENSE, DENT.
I SAY WE ESCORT TYPHOON OUT OF HERE.
BACK OFF, SHITBIRD!
ANYONE ELSE MAKES A MOVE AND I'LL SUCK THEIR BRAINS OUT OF THEIR EARS.
BOYS, GET READY...
I WILL KILL EVERY GODDAMN ONE OF
OH SHIT.
14

"WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?"

UP THERE!
I SEE SMOKE!

"AND WHERE THERE'S SMOKE..."

...THERE'S FIRE!
HAHAHA HAHA!

MIME?!

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU CRAZY SON OF A BITCH...

SAY CHEESE.
WHAT THE FUH...
KK!
WELL, SHIT. HERE WE GO.
AAAA!
BOSS?!
LET'S GO, DANCING MAN!
WE'RE LEAVING.
YES, NOW.
YOU! STOP RIGHT TH...
EEYIIAAA!
16

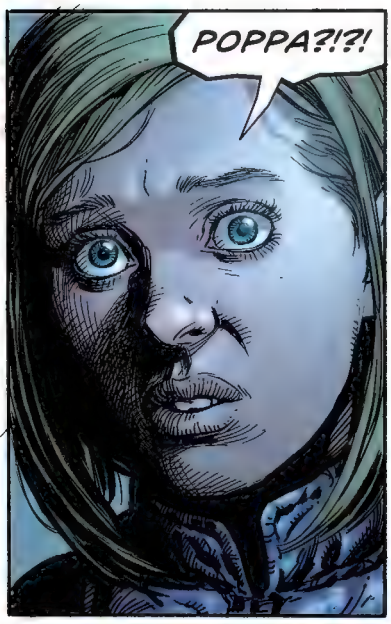
EEEEEEEEIIIGH!
FIRE IN THE HOLE! HAHAHAHA!
WHAT A PERFECT DAY THIS TURNED OUT TO BE!
STOP SLOWING DOWN.
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DRAW HIS FIRE AGAIN, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
THAT'S THE GODDAMN COMEDIAN.
IT SURE AS SHIT IS.
17

WHY ARE YOU STOPPING?
MIME, WE ARE NOT STAYING HERE...
"MIME!"
OH, DADDY!
IT'S WONDERFUL!
HE'S GOING TO LOVE IT! CAN I GO GIVE IT TO HIM? CAN I?
IT IS GETTING A BIT LATE NOW. AND YOU KNOW HOW UPSET HIS STEPFATHER CAN GET.
HE DOESN'T LIKE ME.
HOW COULD ANYONE NOT LIKE YOU?
HE SAYS I'M A BAD INFLUENCE!
LET'S WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW, HM?
OPEN
ERIKA, GET DOWN. STAY HIDDEN. STAY QUIET.
WHAT? BUT, POPPA...
PLEASE, DO AS I SAY.
JIMMY MAKE A DROP THIS MORNING?
MY KID LOVED THE LEPRECHAUN. WHICH ONE DID HE PUT IT IN THIS TIME?
HOW 'BOUT THAT CLOWN?
YOU KIDDIN'? THAT'LL GIVE HER NIGHTMARES.
I CANNOT DO THIS ANYMORE. NOT IN FRONT OF MY DAUGHTER.
THE BOSS BROUGHT YOU TO THIS COUNTRY. HE OWNS YOU. HE OWNS YOUR DAUGHTER.
TELL US WHICH GODDAMN DOLL IT IS, OLD MAN.
POPPA?!
WELL, WELL, WELL...

LOOK AT YOU.
COME ON OUT, GIRL.
LET HER GO!
ERIKA!
YOUR LITTLE GIRL WILL PAY A VISIT TO THE BOSS IF YOU DON'T TELL US WHICH GODDAMN DOLL IT IS!
POPPA?!
SPEAK, YOU IMMIGRANT SHIT.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WOMAN ACROSS THE STREET WHEN SHE SAID NO TO US, DON'T YOU?
ANITA WAS HER NAME.
SHE TOOK A NASTY FALL DOWN A FIRE ESCAPE. TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.
REAL SHAME.
IT'S INSIDE THE HERO.
NITE OWL.
NITE OWL? AIN'T THAT A STITCH.
YEAH.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL HERE.
THERE'LL BE ANOTHER DELIVERY NEXT WEEK.
AND NO MORE TROUBLE, YOU HEAR?
:HNN!:
19

AS LONG AS YOU'RE BREATHING, YOU WORK FOR US.
"I HAVE TO HELP HIM.
WE DO. LIKE, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR MOM...YOU NEVER TOLD ME.
DID YOU KNOW? YOU HAD TO HAVE KNOWN, RIGHT?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? MARCOS?
HEY...
CAN YOU REALLY NOT TALK?
MARCOS, I REALLY NEED YOU TO SAY SOMETHING IF YOU CAN...
IT'S OKAY. I'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
I KNOW THEY'RE SCARY.

POPPA?


POPPA?!?!

Erika

I am sorry.

You are safer with me gone.
JESUS CHRIST.
They never would have stopped.
Dry your tears.
Empty the till.
And run.
EEEyYYIAAA!
They have no reason to follow you now.
WHAT THE HELL?!
GG GTGT!
You will be safe.
Free to live a good life.
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
I hope you forgive me.

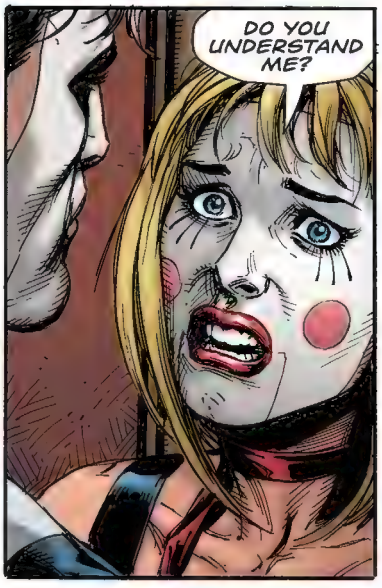
One day you will make your own family.
RRAAAA!
And when that day comes, I hope you understand.
YOU DUMB KID! I'LL KILL YOU!
I'LL SNAP YOUR GODDAMN NECK!
The lengths a parent will go to protect their child.
:KKT!:
I only wish I had more to give you than my life.
G-GET... GT...
Go now, my child.
And be who you want to be.
CARIBBEAN MOTEL
Love,
Poppa
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
23

YOU WANT TO GO BACK OUT THERE? WHILE I HIDE IN HERE?
TO LURE THE COMEDIAN AWAY?
NO.

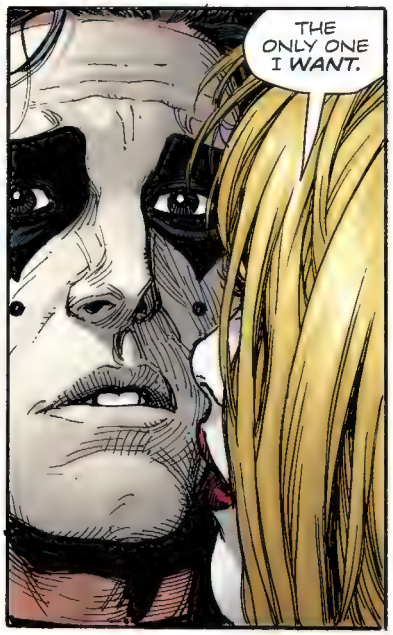
"YOU ARE NOT GOING TO LEAVE ME.

YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DIE SO I CAN RUN.

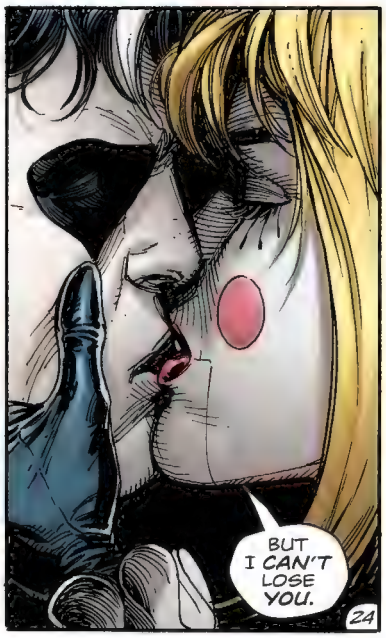
"WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.


DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

"YOU'RE THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES ME SMILE IN THIS DARK PLACE.


THE ONLY ONE I WANT.

"THE REST OF THE WORLD CAN GO TO HELL.


BUT I CAN'T LOSE YOU.

KEEP PUSHING!
I WANT MARCOS HERE!
"WHERE IS HE?!"
BRING HIM BACK! BRING MY BABY BACK TO ME!
WWAAUUU!
MARCOS...
"WE'VE BEEN APART FOR TOO LONG."
I WANT TO FIND OUR BABY.
THING ABOUT YOU FREAKS...
YOU DON'T COVER YOUR TRACKS TOO WELL.
I ONLY NEED ONE OF YOU BREATHING TO TELL ME WHERE OZYMANDIAS IS.
SO WHICH ONE IS IT GONNA BE?
OR SHOULD I PICK RZZRZZTTGZZ!

RZZRZZTTGZZ!

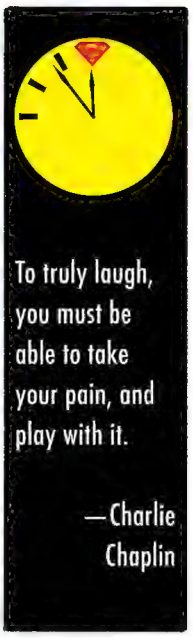
HAHAHAHAHA!

OH, JOY.

I LIKE YOU TWO. YOU MAKE ME LAUGH.

I WAS JUST THINKING...
...I BET THE COMEDIAN KNOWS WHERE DR. MANHATTAN IS.
DR. MANHATTAN? WHO'S THAT?
I COULD USE A GOOD DENTIST.

IT HURTS WHEN I SMILE.
26


To truly laugh, you must be able to take your pain, and play with it.
—Charlie Chaplin

FL294-1981

AGENT DAVID DRAKE

A.K.A. TYPHOON

CONFIDENTIAL

# DEPARTMENT OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS

# DEPARTMENT OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS

## ASSIGNMENT APPROVAL FORM

**AGENT NUMBER** #FL294-1981
**NAME** David Matthew Drake
**ASSIGNED ALIAS** Typhoon

**MARITAL STATUS** Divorced
**KNOWN RELATIVES** Marilyn (ex-wife), Davey (son), Lisa (daughter)
**BIRTHPLACE** Boston, Massachusetts
**HEIGHT** 6'2"
**WEIGHT** Undeterminable
**EYES** (Drake) Blue, (Typhoon) Red
**HAIR** (Drake) Brown, (Typhoon) Orange

**ASSIGNMENT:** **We believe "Typhoon" is the Department's best chance to infiltrate Kahndaq and Black Adam's inner circle.**

**AGENT BACKGROUND** David Matthew Drake was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Jim Drake (a fisherman) and Nancy Conway (a city accountant). When David Drake was six, his father was lost at sea. Drake joined the Navy soon after graduation. Upon his entrance examination, Drake was determined to be meta-positive. This information was kept confidential, even from Drake. It was at this time that the Department of Metahuman Affairs began its surveillance of Drake. In the Navy, Drake married chief petty officer Marilyn Levenson. Drake discovered Marilyn was having an affair with Admiral [redacted]. Drake was discharged after a confrontation with Admiral [redacted] suffered a broken arm and minor lacerations, but no formal charges were filed.

Drake and Marilyn returned to Boston after the birth of their son, Davey. Drake studied engineering at Boston University. Upon graduation, Drake briefly worked with Dr. Stephen Shin (see sub-file) at the Marine Institute before transferring to Concordance Research, where he would spend the next several years.

After theirdaughter was born, Marilyn filed for divorce. Suffering from intense depression, Drake was profiled by the Department of Metahuman Affairs' psychologist, Dr. Jivan Shi. Dr. Shi determined Drake to be an ideal candidate for the Department. Drake was approached by Director [redacted] and, after several meetings and negotiations regarding educational funds for his children, joined the Department.

Drake continued his work for Concordance Research and developed "the Manta," a controversial nuclear-powered

## ASSIGNMENT APPROVAL FORM

**CONTINUED** bathysphere that has since revolutionized deep-sea exploration. On board Concordance's research ship, the *Neptune Explorer*, Drake was seemingly killed after he was exposed to the nuclear core of the bathysphere. However, in reality this was a "controlled accident" designed and carried out by the Department of Metahuman Affairs. Drake survived the explosion and his metagene was triggered.

Drake's appearance was drastically altered. He gained the ability to create various meteorological storms centered around him. At the center of these storms, Drake wielded telekinetic control over wind, water and lightning. He was also able to "ride" these storms, mimicking flight.

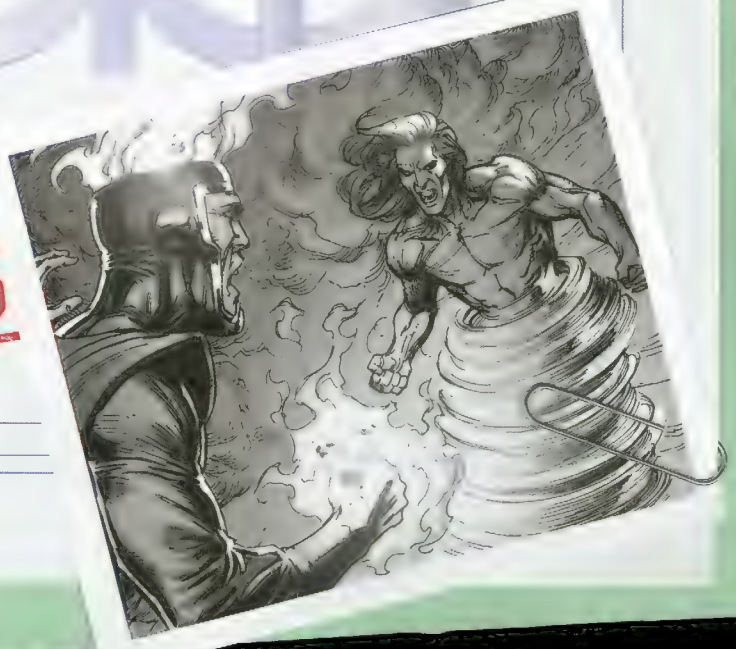
Dubbed "Typhoon" by Director [redacted], Drake was assigned to play the role of "super-villain" in public in order to test and master his new powers. In his first outing he came into contact with Firestorm. Typhoon used his various confrontations with Firestorm to gain control over his abilities and make contacts in the criminal metahuman underworld. Unfortunately, Drake made contact with his ex-wife and children on several occasions. In one instance, Drake attacked his ex-wife's new husband. In another, Drake was reprimanded for revealing the truth behind his origins to his son. A cover story was quickly put into place, blaming Drake for a Category 1 hurricane that struck the coast of Florida and left 25 dead, later referred to as Hurricane Drake. Drake's relationship with his ex-wife and children ended after that. Drake struggled with alcohol and drugs and often sought out confrontations with Firestorm against the Department's orders. During one of his episodes, Drake hunted down and nearly killed Agent # GL1-1960, Jordan Weir a.k.a. the Puppet Master a.k.a. the Puppeteer, after learning of the role he played in Drake's psychological reconditioning.

Despite these various setbacks, Drake has been an invaluable agent to the Department. He was instrumental in the recruitment of Agent #FI43-1986, who continues to be an exemplary part of the Department and has kept Drake focused and responsible. We expect their work together to continue to have a significant impact on the Department's gathering of intel from within the criminal metahuman community.

We anxiously await the Director's approval of this next step for Agent Drake.

APPROVED

**AGENT NUMBER** #FL294-1981



# DEPARTMENT OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS

## REPORT FORM

REPORTING AGENT: David Matthew Drake, Typhoon

Agent Brandon and I will be infiltrating the Riddler's gathering tonight, which he is calling "the League of Villainy." Although Agent Brandon will remain stateside, the plan continues to be for me to travel into Kahndaq with the other volunteers and join Black Adam's army in order to report back. As of today we have identified three metahumans who have already committed themselves to Black Adam's cause.

**METAHUMAN: The Creeper TRUE NAME: Jack Ryder**

Reporter Jack Ryder was rescued from King Kobra by Black Adam in Syria. His identity as the Creeper is not known publicly, but he has crossed paths with both the Batman and the Justice League. He appears to be mentally unstable, and it is my opinion that the Department should consider the Creeper a liability for Black Adam should he remain in Kahndaq. The exact nature and extent of the Creeper's abilities remain unknown, though he has demonstrated super-agility and enhanced strength.

**METAHUMAN: Giganta TRUE NAME: Dr. Doris Zeul**

We have been monitoring ongoing communications between Dr. Zeul and Kahndaq. Dr. Zeul is expected to be a voice of support for Kahndaq among the criminal underworld tonight. The origins of her newfound loyalty to Black Adam have yet to be determined. As the world knows, Dr. Zeul gained the ability to increase her size and mass after performing experiments on herself and triggering her metagene, all of which I witnessed firsthand during the Crime Syndicate's invasion (see report).

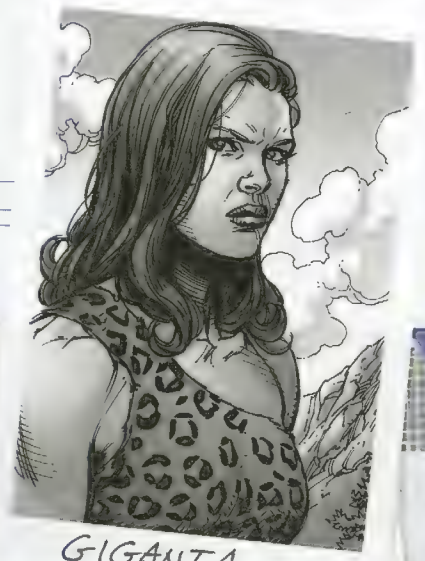
**METAHUMAN: Sandstorm TRUE NAME: Unknown**

We know very little about the metahuman from Syria. There are reports of Sandstorm uncovering and destroying terrorist cells with a focus on freeing children held captive, but consequently he has been seen attacking Syrian soldiers, also with a focus on protecting children. We have confirmation that he is now working alongside Black Adam. It is said he has command over the entire desert.

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

THE CREEPER

SANDSTORM



GIGANTA

THE METAHUMAN ARMS RACE CONTINU
BIG MONSTER ACTION
Goraiko
Hammersuit Zero-X
Judomaster
Naiad
Ram
Samurai
JAPAN
Rising Sun Izumi Yasunari was a founding member of Japan's superhero team Big Action Science and is believed to be Japan's most powerful metahuman. Able to harness the power of the sun, Rising Sun now leads a new team called Big Monster Action, inheriting the duty of Ultimon, who once protected Japan from the kaiju that threatened it during the "Monster Wars." Big Monster Action is now capturing and domesticating these creatures
THE ELITE BASIJ
The Blacksmith of Tehran
Manticore
The Patient One
Sirocco
Super-Shayk
THE SEER
Sayeh the Seer is capable of peering into the future, though how far ahead she can exactly see into tomorrow is unclear. Sayeh is currently leading a growing group of metahumans across Iran in search of others. She was the first to coin the term "Super War" when referring to the endgame of the metahuman arms race. Whether she invented the phrase or "saw it" remains to be clarified. Sayeh has since been silent on what she's seen but remains intent on consolidating Iran's metahumans
BLACK ADAM has opened the borders of Kahndaq to any metahuman seeking asylum. The number of metahumans who have joined him are said to be in the dozens already, but their identities remain a mystery. With both America and Russia withdrawing their troops from the Middle East, Black Adam has promised to bring stability to the region
DREAMER
Betty Clawman is an Australian meta human able to move through dreams. Throughout the last month, world leaders and foreign meta-humans have claimed to have been confronted by Dreamer and her team in their sleep. The Australian government has denied these accusations
THE SLEEPING SOLDIERS
The Argonaut
Dark Ranger
Miss Midnight
The Tasmanian Devil
Umbaluru





# DEPARTMENT OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS

## REPORT OF DEATH

NAME: David Matthew Drake
AGENT NUMBER: FL294-1981
DATE OF DEATH: 7/25
PLACE OF DEATH: Gotham
DISPOSITION OF REMAINS: being held in Gotham City Morgue awaiting instructions
PERSON OR OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CL
NAME: Marilyn Levenson
ADDRESS: 13 Hanger Way Salem, MA 01970
RELATIONSHIP: ex-wife
DATE CONTACTED: by Gotham PD 7/26

CIRCUMSTANCES (TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL): My colleague Agent David Drake was killed last night by an unknown assailant under the streets of Gotham. He was shot in the head. I pulled his body from the ensuing fire and, per Department protocol, vacated the scene.

As his longtime colleague, I respectfully request that Agent David Drake be cleared of any involvement in the deaths caused by Hurricane Drake and publicly recognized by the Department as the American hero we know he was. His children deserve to hear the truth about their father.

His soul is with God now. Do the right thing and one day yours will be, too.

Respectfully

B Brandon

SIGNATURE OF AGENT

AGENT NUMBER: FL43-1986

NAME: Brittany Brandon/Moonbow

# DEPARTMENT OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS

## FOR GENERAL RELEASE

DAVID DRAKE died Wednesday, July 25, at the age of 43. There will be no funeral service. Donations for those affected by his criminal actions can be made to the Metahuman Victims Fund, 555 5th Street NW, #109, Washington D.C. 20001. Drake leaves behind a son, David, and daughter, Lisa.

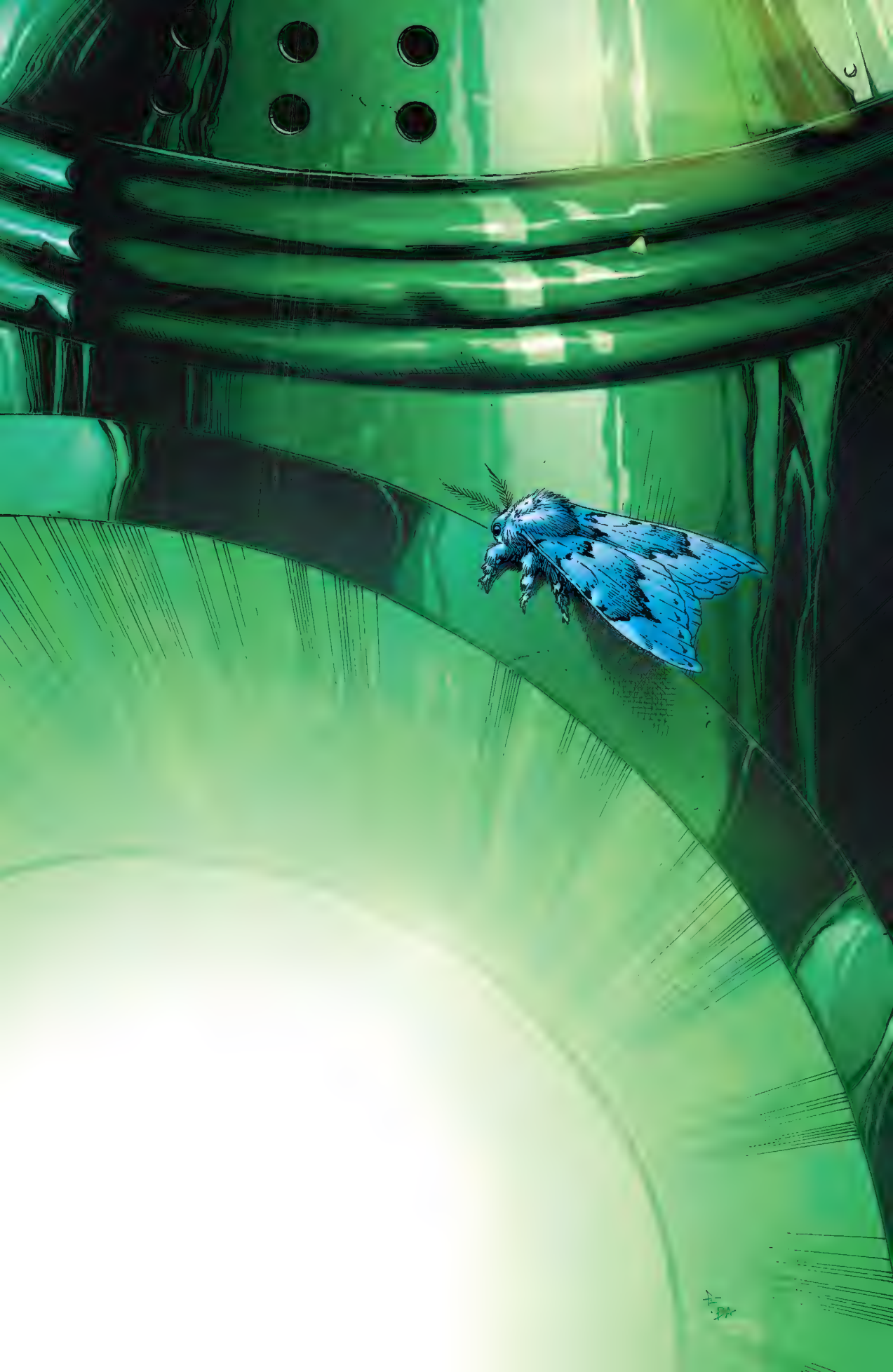
FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTOR

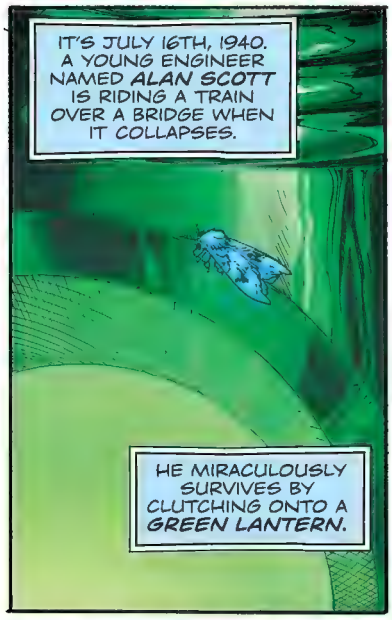
THE REQUEST FROM AGENT BRANDON REGARDING A BURIAL AND SERVICE FOR AGENT DRAKE IS DENIED. IT IS CRITICAL TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ONGOING EFFORTS AND THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE TRUE NATURE OF DRAKE'S WORK AS TYPHOON REMAINS CONFIDENTIAL. AS THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, I HAVE MADE GREAT SACRIFICES MYSELF.

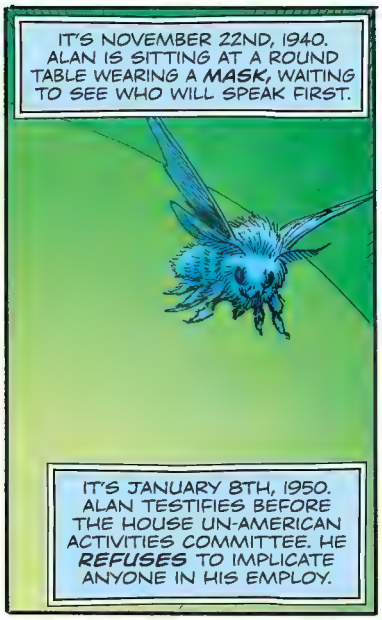
DRAKE'S APPROVED OBITUARY IS ATTACHED.

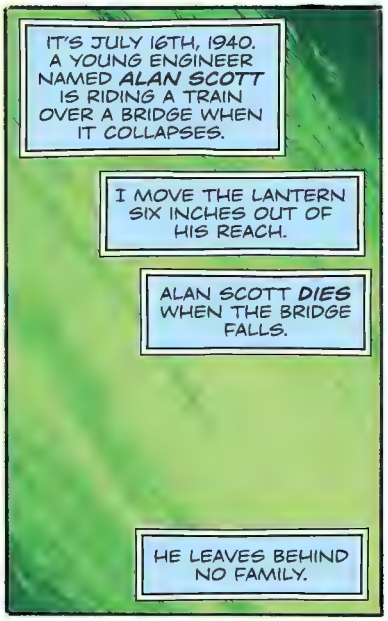
ALSO, I AM EAGER TO RECEIVE HIS BODY FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ITS TRANSPORTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.

OF COURSE, THE FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO HIS CHILDREN WILL BE HONORED.




IT'S JULY 16TH, 1940. A YOUNG ENGINEER NAMED ALAN SCOTT IS RIDING A TRAIN OVER A BRIDGE WHEN IT COLLAPSES.
HE MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVES BY CLUTCHING ONTO A GREEN LANTERN.

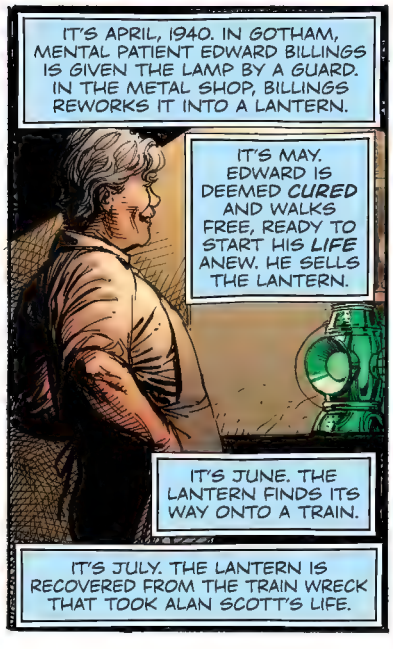

IT'S NOVEMBER 22ND, 1940. ALAN IS SITTING AT A ROUND TABLE WEARING A MASK, WAITING TO SEE WHO WILL SPEAK FIRST.
IT'S JANUARY 8TH, 1950. ALAN TESTIFIES BEFORE THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE. HE REFUSES TO IMPLICATE ANYONE IN HIS EMPLOY.

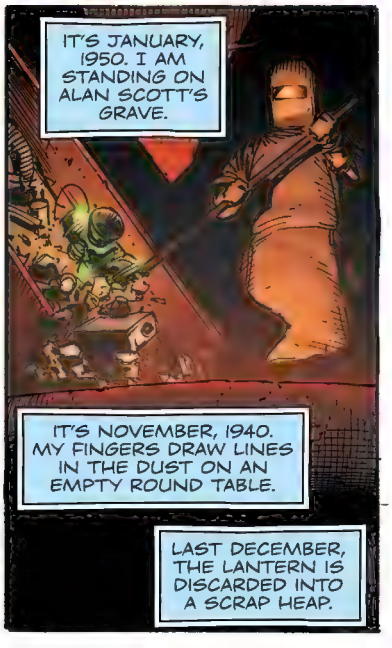

IT'S JULY 16TH, 1940. A YOUNG ENGINEER NAMED ALAN SCOTT IS RIDING A TRAIN OVER A BRIDGE WHEN IT COLLAPSES.
I MOVE THE LANTERN SIX INCHES OUT OF HIS REACH.
ALAN SCOTT DIES WHEN THE BRIDGE FALLS.
HE LEAVES BEHIND NO FAMILY.

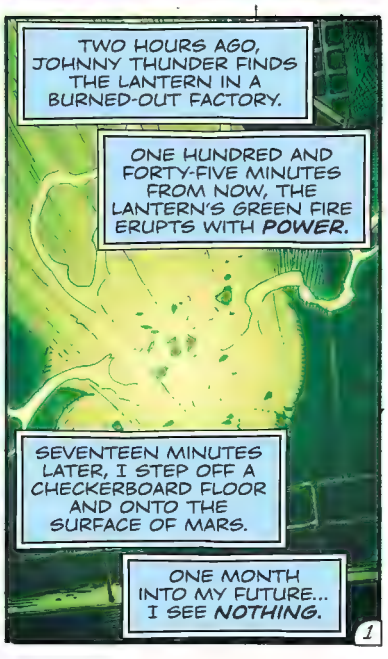
IT'S JULY IN THE YEAR 960. THE SONG DYNASTY IS BORN.
IN OCTOBER, A GREEN STAR FALLS OUT OF THE SKY.

A HOPEFUL MYSTIC APPROACHES THE EMERALD METAL.
HE CLAIMS TO HEAR A VOICE WITHIN IT.
THREE TIMES SHALL I FLAME GREEN. THE FIRST...TO BRING DEATH!
THE SECOND TO BRING LIFE!
THE THIRD TO BRING POWER!

THAT NIGHT, THE MAN FORGES THE STRANGE METAL INTO A LAMP.
TWO HOURS LATER, TERRIFIED VILLAGERS SPLIT HIS SKULL OPEN WITH IT. A PLAGUE FOLLOWS HIS DEATH.


IT'S APRIL, 1940. IN GOTHAM, MENTAL PATIENT EDWARD BILLINGS IS GIVEN THE LAMP BY A GUARD. IN THE METAL SHOP, BILLINGS REWORKS IT INTO A LANTERN.
IT'S MAY. EDWARD IS DEEMED CURED AND WALKS FREE, READY TO START HIS LIFE ANEW. HE SELLS THE LANTERN.
IT'S JUNE. THE LANTERN FINDS ITS WAY ONTO A TRAIN.
IT'S JULY. THE LANTERN IS RECOVERED FROM THE TRAIN WRECK THAT TOOK ALAN SCOTT'S LIFE.


IT'S JANUARY, 1950. I AM STANDING ON ALAN SCOTT'S GRAVE.
IT'S NOVEMBER, 1940. MY FINGERS DRAW LINES IN THE DUST ON AN EMPTY ROUND TABLE.
LAST DECEMBER, THE LANTERN IS DISCARDED INTO A SCRAP HEAP.


TWO HOURS AGO, JOHNNY THUNDER FINDS THE LANTERN IN A BURNED-OUT FACTORY.
ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE MINUTES FROM NOW, THE LANTERN'S GREEN FIRE ERUPTS WITH POWER.
SEVENTEEN MINUTES LATER, I STEP OFF A CHECKERBOARD FLOOR AND ONTO THE SURFACE OF MARS.
ONE MONTH INTO MY FUTURE... I SEE NOTHING.

IT'S 1985. I LEAVE MY WORLD FOR THIS ONE.
YOU HAVE A... MAGIC GENIE?
HE'S MY BEST FRIEND. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.

GENIE'S IN LANTERN?
LIKE ALADDIN...

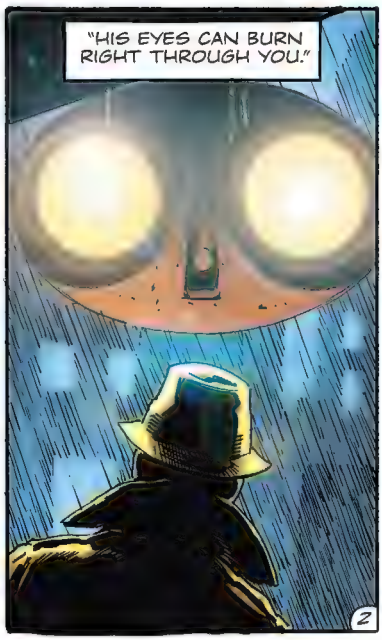
DON'T SOUND SO SKEPTICAL.
THE LIGHT WILL HELP YOU FIND MANHATTAN.

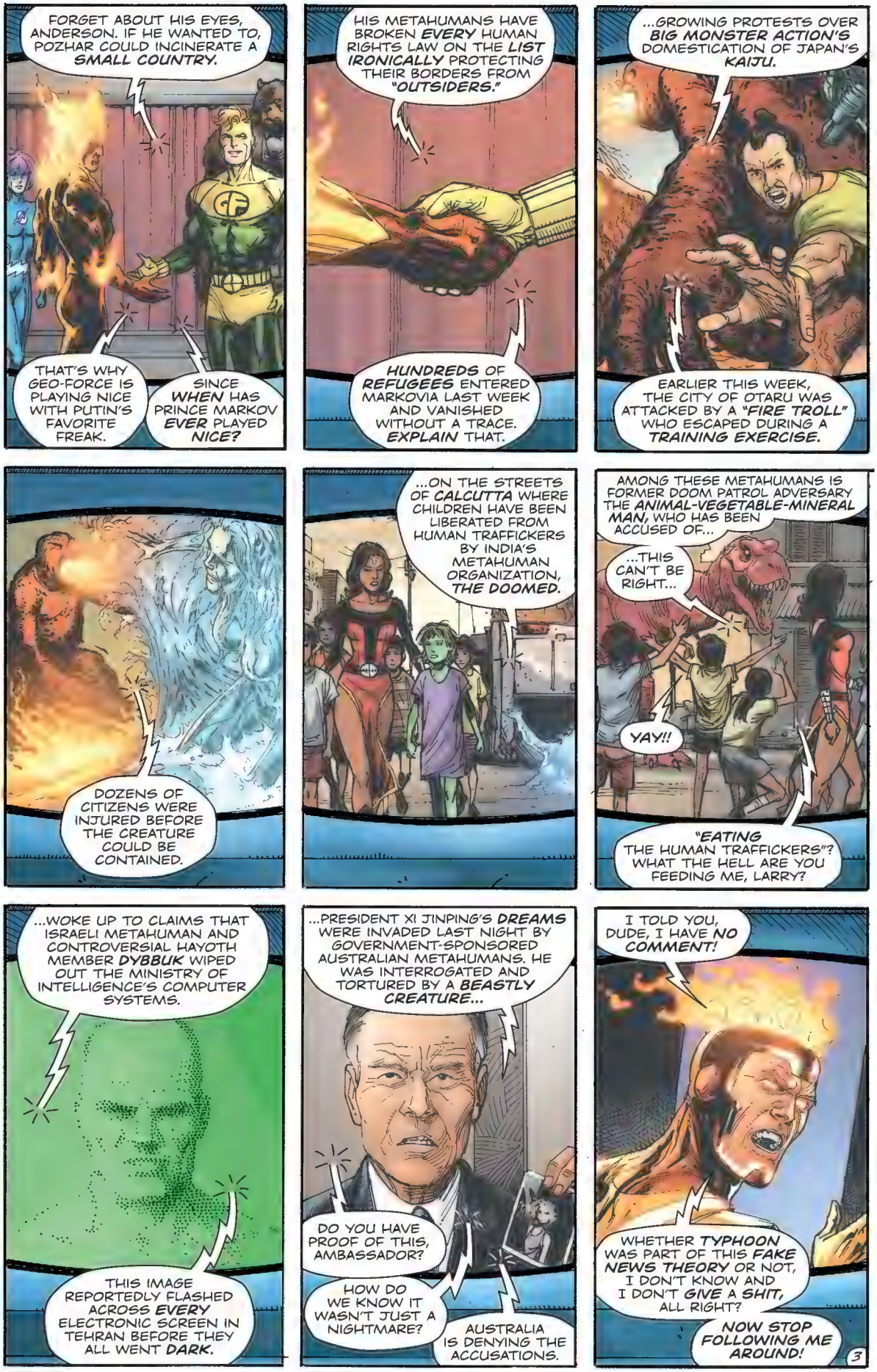
WE CAN TAKE THE BUS TO GET TO NEW YORK.
NOT CITY, OLD MAN. LOOKING FOR GOD.
AREN'T WE ALL? OH, I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR THE HELP YOU'VE GIVEN ME. THE CHANCE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT!

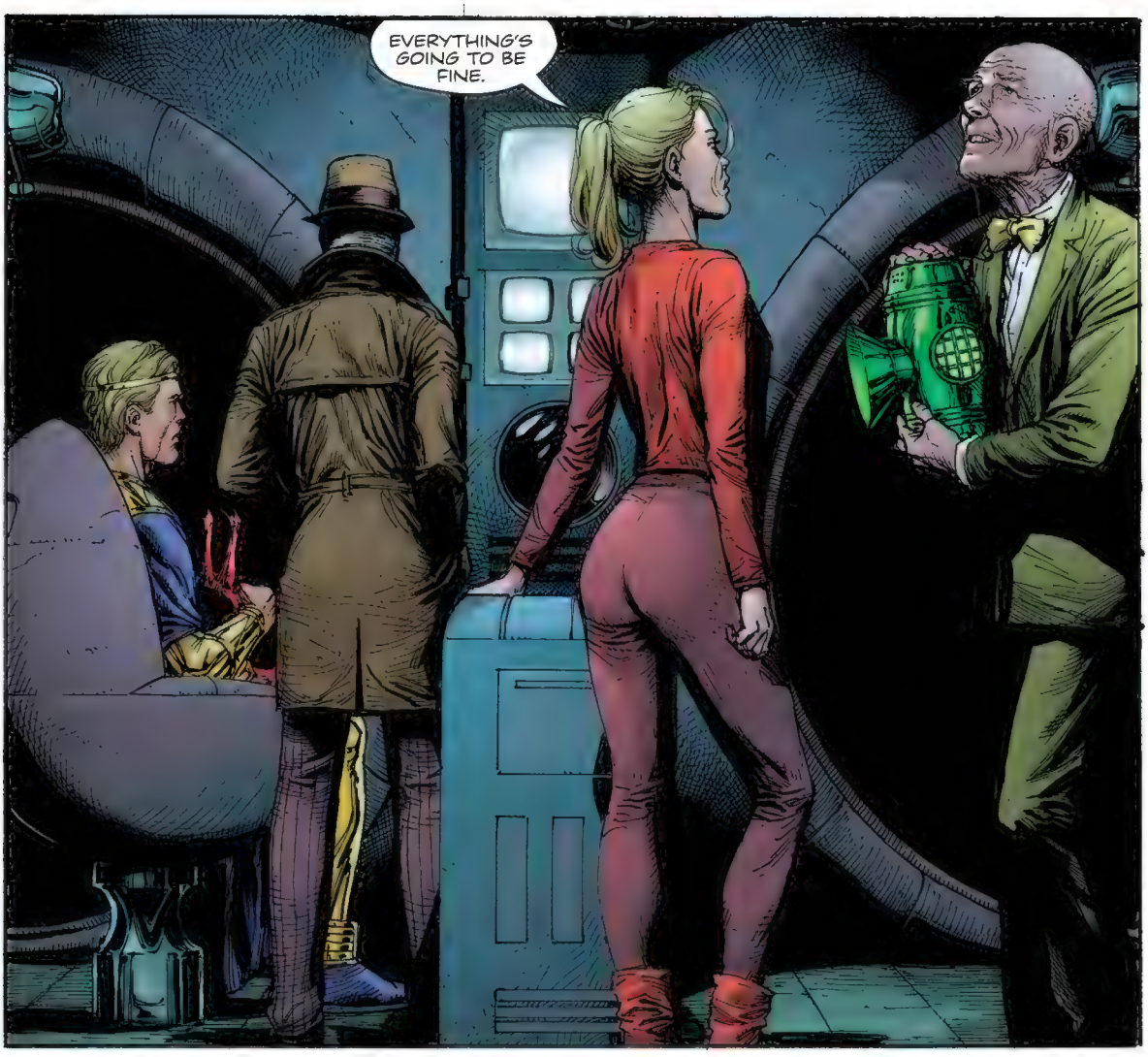
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT THEM.
CEI-U!

...THUNDERBOLT?
I SAID THE MAGIC WORD...

HURM.


"HIS EYES CAN BURN RIGHT THROUGH YOU."
2


FORGET ABOUT HIS EYES, ANDERSON. IF HE WANTED TO, POZHAR COULD INCINERATE A SMALL COUNTRY.
THAT'S WHY GEO-FORCE IS PLAYING NICE WITH PUTIN'S FAVORITE FREAK.
SINCE WHEN HAS PRINCE MARKOV EVER PLAYED NICE?
HIS METAHUMANS HAVE BROKEN EVERY HUMAN RIGHTS LAW ON THE LIST IRONICALLY PROTECTING THEIR BORDERS FROM "OUTSIDERS."
HUNDREDS OF REFUGEES ENTERED MARKOVIA LAST WEEK AND VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE. EXPLAIN THAT.
...GROWING PROTESTS OVER BIG MONSTER ACTION'S DOMESTICATION OF JAPAN'S KAIJU.
EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE CITY OF OTARU WAS ATTACKED BY A "FIRE TROLL" WHO ESCAPED DURING A TRAINING EXERCISE.
DOZENS OF CITIZENS WERE INJURED BEFORE THE CREATURE COULD BE CONTAINED.
...ON THE STREETS OF CALCUTTA WHERE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN LIBERATED FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKERS BY INDIA'S METAHUMAN ORGANIZATION, THE DOOMED.
AMONG THESE METAHUMANS IS FORMER DOOM PATROL ADVERSARY THE ANIMAL-VEGETABLE-MINERAL MAN, WHO HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF...
...THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT...
YAY!!
"EATING THE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS"? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU FEEDING ME, LARRY?
...WOKE UP TO CLAIMS THAT ISRAELI METAHUMAN AND CONTROVERSIAL HAYOTH MEMBER DYBBUK WIPED OUT THE MINISTRY OF INTELLIGENCE'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS.
THIS IMAGE REPORTEDLY FLASHED ACROSS EVERY ELECTRONIC SCREEN IN TEHRAN BEFORE THEY ALL WENT DARK.
...PRESIDENT XI JINPING'S DREAMS WERE INVADED LAST NIGHT BY GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AUSTRALIAN METAHUMANS. HE WAS INTERROGATED AND TORTURED BY A BEASTLY CREATURE...
DO YOU HAVE PROOF OF THIS, AMBASSADOR?
HOW DO WE KNOW IT WASN'T JUST A NIGHTMARE?
AUSTRALIA IS DENYING THE ACCUSATIONS.
I TOLD YOU, DUDE, I HAVE NO COMMENT!
WHETHER TYPHOON WAS PART OF THIS FAKE NEWS THEORY OR NOT, I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T GIVE A SHIT, ALL RIGHT?
NOW STOP FOLLOWING ME AROUND!
3

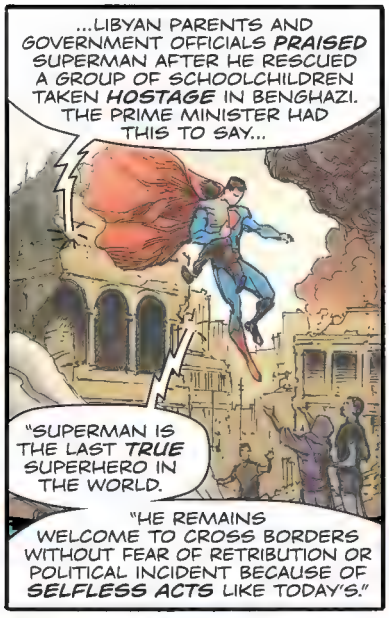

EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE FINE.

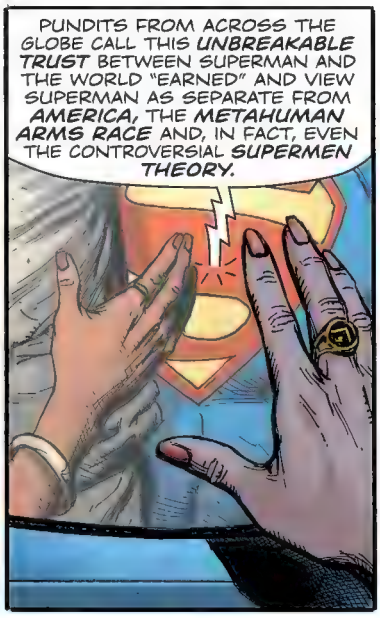
# BLIND SPOT

SAYS THE BUBBLY BLONDE WHILE HER WORLD FALLS APART AROUND US.
NOT THAT I DON'T MIND MEETING NEW AND INTERESTING PEOPLE, RORSCHACH, BUT...
WHO ARE WE?

MY NAME IS IMRA ARDEEN, BUT I'VE BEEN DESIGNATED SATURN GIRL. I'M A TELEPATH.
FROM THE 30th CENTURY.

NN...
DIDN'T MENTION THAT LAST PART WHEN WE MET.
WHERE DID YOU FIND HER?
...
ARKHAM ASYLUM.
OF COURSE YOU DID.

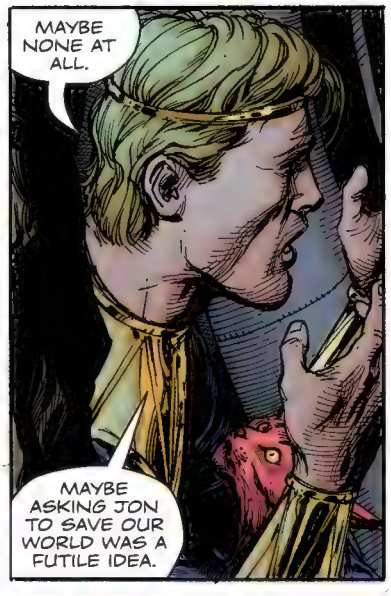

...LIBYAN PARENTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRAISED SUPERMAN AFTER HE RESCUED A GROUP OF SCHOOLCHILDREN TAKEN HOSTAGE IN BENGHAZI. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD THIS TO SAY...
"SUPERMAN IS THE LAST TRUE SUPERHERO IN THE WORLD.
"HE REMAINS WELCOME TO CROSS BORDERS WITHOUT FEAR OF RETRIBUTION OR POLITICAL INCIDENT BECAUSE OF SELFLESS ACTS LIKE TODAY'S."


PUNDITS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE CALL THIS UNBREAKABLE TRUST BETWEEN SUPERMAN AND THE WORLD "EARNED" AND VIEW SUPERMAN AS SEPARATE FROM AMERICA, THE METAHUMAN ARMS RACE AND, IN FACT, EVEN THE CONTROVERSIAL SUPERMEN THEORY.

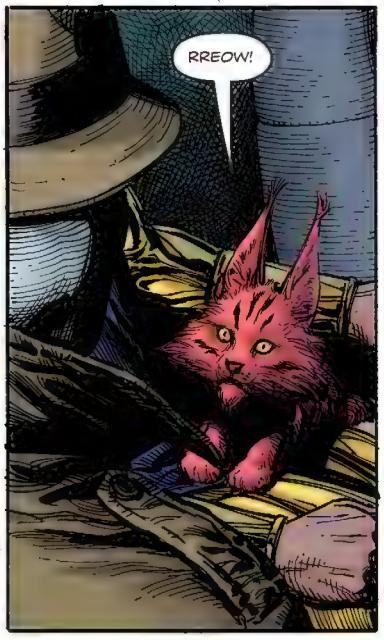
SUPERMAN'S WHY I SERVE AS AN INTERGALACTIC REPRESENTATIVE OF A LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES...
...SENT HERE TO HELP CLEANSE THE TIME STREAM OF AN UNKNOWN ANOMALY THAT THREATENS HIM.
RECONSIDERING MY SUGGESTION OF BRINGING THEM WITH US.
I WOULD IMAGINE.

:NNG:
:GG:

PAIN'S LASTING LONGER.
I DON'T KNOW H-HOW MUCH TIME I HAVE LEFT...


MAYBE NONE AT ALL.
MAYBE ASKING JON TO SAVE OUR WORLD WAS A FUTILE IDEA.

NOT FUTILE, ADRIAN.
MY FATHER BELIEVED IN BEST OUTCOME UNTIL END. WAS GOING TO SAVE KOVACS FROM HIMSELF. NEVER GAVE IN TO DARK THOUGHTS.
DON'T GIVE UP.


RREOW!

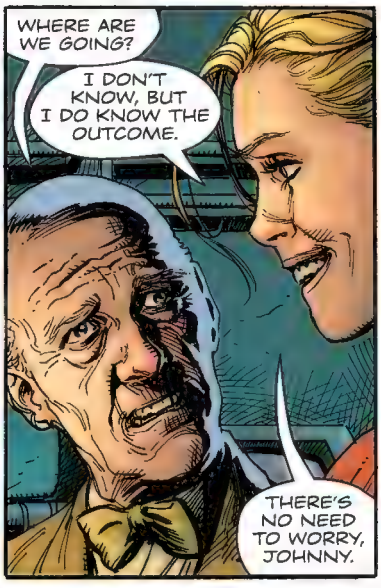
WHAT IS IT, BUBASTIS?

SSSSS!
WHAT'S CAT DOING?

WE'RE GETTING CLOSE.
YOU SAID CAT WAS COMPASS...

YES.
PRRR.

I CLONED THIS BUBASTIS FROM THE REMAINS OF THE ORIGINAL, WHO HAD BEEN... DISINTEGRATED WITH JON.
SHE'S GETTING JON'S SCENT...FROM THEM. FROM THAT LANTERN.


WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I DO KNOW THE OUTCOME.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, JOHNNY.

LOOK AT YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR, RORSCHACH.
YOU WERE LED TO ARKHAM ASYLUM BY THE BATMAN AND LOCKED UP.
LATER FREED BY THIS WOMAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE A HERO FROM THE FUTURE.

AND THEN BROUGHT TO A MAN CLAIMING TO BE A HERO FROM THE PAST.
COINCIDENCE.

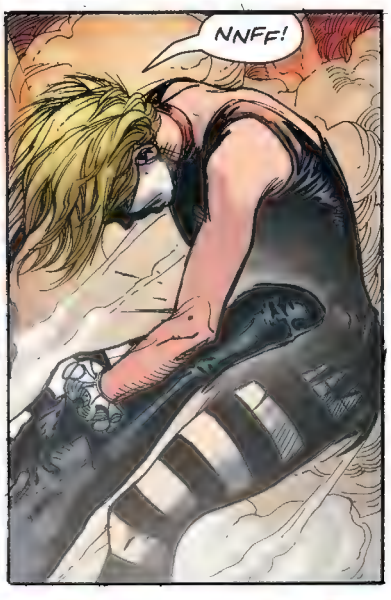
...FOOTAGE OF THE ASSAILANT WHO AUTHORITIES BELIEVE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPLOSIONS IN THE GOTHAM SEWERS.

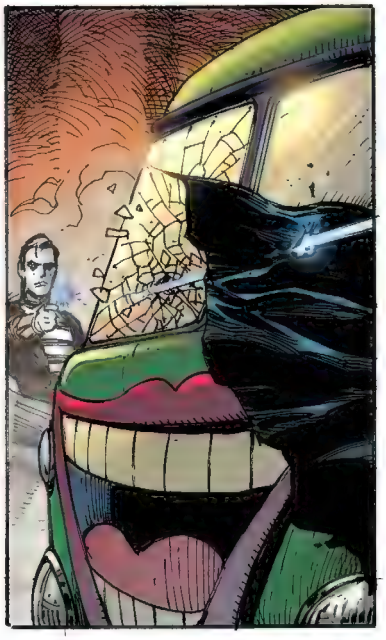
YOU MUST KNOW THIS BY NOW, RORSCHACH.
WHEN IT COMES TO DR. MANHATTAN...
THERE ARE NO COINCIDENCES.
"DO I SEE A SMILE?"

BECAUSE IF I DON'T SEE A SMILE, I CAN MAKE ONE!
EYES UP HERE!
THERE WE GO.
HI THERE, HANDSOME!
...THE HELL... AM I?
I CALL IT MY FUN HOUSE! THE JOKER CAVE! LE PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE!
YOU CAUSED QUITE A STIR AMONG MY BRETHREN, YOU HALF-SMILING FOOL, YOU. BUT I GIVE YOU FIVE GOLD STARS FOR THAT SHOT TO EDDIE NYGMA.
RIDDLE ME THIS! WHAT'S GREEN, RED AND MISSING A KNEECAP?!
HAHAHAHAHA!
THERE'S SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM.
DON'T BE SHY, MY DEAR!
MY HOME IS YOURS!
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN.
7

UGH! GET A ROOM, YOU TWO!
YOUR SINCERITY IS SICKENING.
THE MIME AND THE MARIONETTE...
:PTTT:
HOW THE HELL DID VEIDT ROPE YOU TWO IDIOTS INTO WHATEVER THE HELL HE'S DOING? AND MORE IMPORTANTLY... WHY?
WE'RE GOING TO ASK THE QUESTIONS, BLAKE.
YOU DIED IN THE PAST. YET, HERE YOU ARE. HAVEN'T AGED A DAY. TELL US YOUR SECRET.
COCONUT OIL? POMEGRANATES?
A NAKED BLUE MAN?
WHY DON'T YA UNCUFF ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU, SWEETHEART.
NNNNYYAAA!
OH, HONEY, THAT'S THE EASY PAIN.
TELL US WHERE DR. MANHATTAN IS AND I'LL ONLY DRILL INTO YOUR ARMS.
WHO KNOWS WHERE OR WHEN THAT ASSHOLE IS?
LISTEN, ALL DOC ASKED ME TO DO WAS TAKE OUT VEIDT'S CAT, OKAY? SO I WAS HAVIN' A LITTLE BIT OF FUN WITH YOU. THAT'S ALL.
I'LL SHOW YOU FUN...
WHAT, BABY?
WHAT IS IT?
8

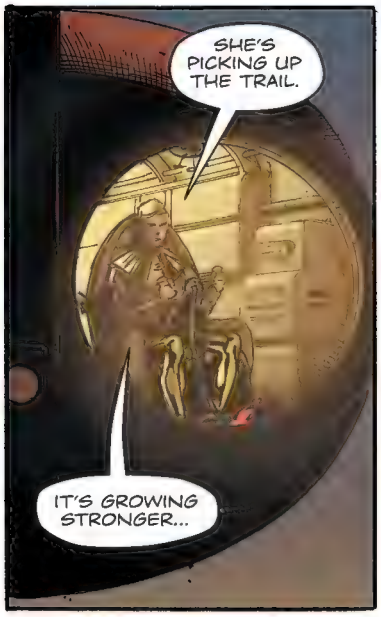
GOD, I WISH I HAD SOME POPCORN!

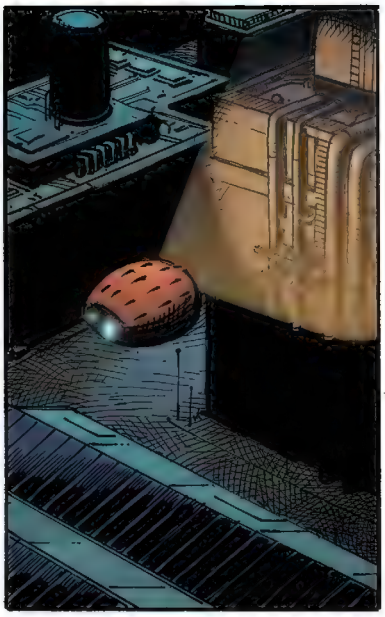

NNFF!

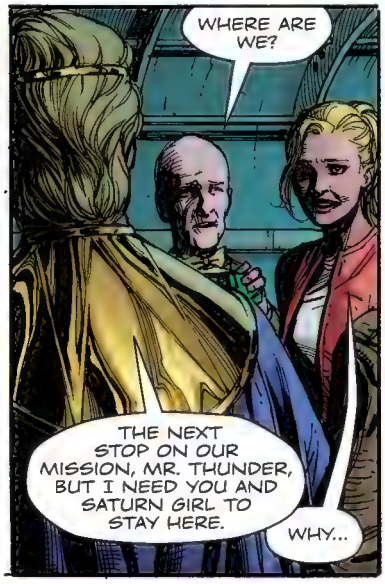


I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING!
HAHAHAHA!

REOWWWW.


SHE'S PICKING UP THE TRAIL.
IT'S GROWING STRONGER...




WHERE ARE WE?
THE NEXT STOP ON OUR MISSION, MR. THUNDER, BUT I NEED YOU AND SATURN GIRL TO STAY HERE.
WHY...

YOU'VE HELPED US MORE THAN YOU KNOW, BUT I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE YOU MAY BE IN DANGER IF WHO WE'RE SEARCHING FOR IS INSIDE.
AND I'M GOING TO NEED THE LANTERN.

BUT MY GENIE...
IT'S OKAY, JOHNNY. YOU'LL FIND THE THUNDERBOLT AGAIN.
IT'S HISTORY.

10

AAAA!
KK.
EEYAA!
:NND!:
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...
HAHAHAHAHA!
IS THAT A FLAMETHROWER IN YOUR POCKET OR ARE YOU JUST HAPPY TO SEE ME?
OH, COME ON. SOMEBODY LAUGH!
NO TIME FOR LAUGHING.

AAAAAA!!
DON'T SNEAK UP ON A MAN LIKE THAT, BOGART!

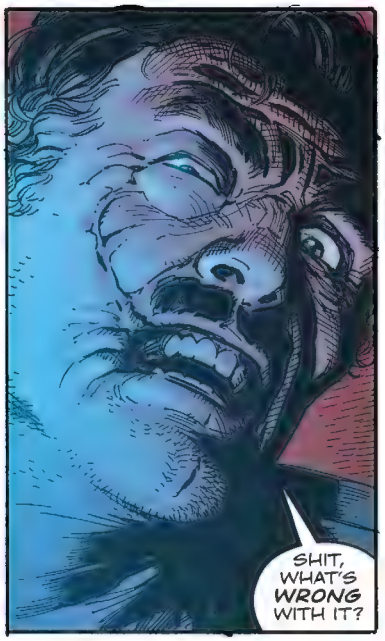
RORSCHACH.
I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU...
YES, BATMAN.

YOU WERE WRONG ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS. EVERYTHING, MAYBE.
I SUPPOSE THAT COMES WITH BEING A CORNERSTONE OF THE EVER-GROWING PROBLEM YOUR WORLD IS BEING SWALLOWED UP BY.

WOW! VEIDT AND HIS MAD DOG FINALLY SHOW THEIR FACES. YOU GUYS GO SIGHTSEEING WHILE MIME AND I WORK!
SEE! LOOK WHO WE FOUND!

HELLO AGAIN, EDWARD.
RREOWW!

WHAT THE HELL IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THAT CAT?


SHIT, WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?

NOTHING.
SHE'S WORKING PERFECTLY.
12

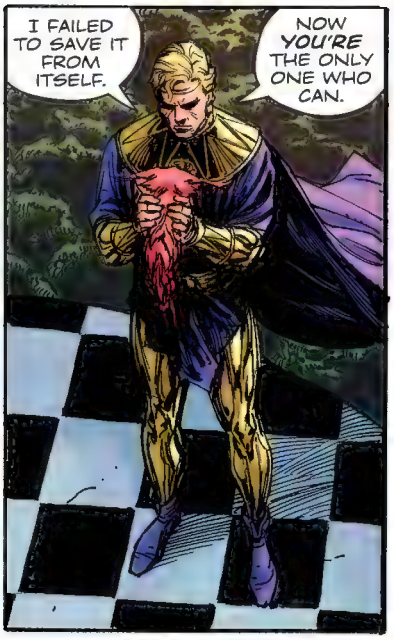
BUBASTIS SEES JON'S TEMPORAL FINGERPRINTS.
ON THIS LANTERN.
AND ON YOU, EDWARD.
AS SHE FEEDS, JON SHOULD FEEL A STRONG PULL TO HER. NOT UNLIKE A MAGNET.
AND TO DENY IT WILL PROVE PAINFUL.
EVEN FOR HIM.
WHERE *ARE* YOU, JON?
SHOW YOURSELF!
I CAN MAKE THIS HURT MORE THAN IT DOES!
13

HELLO, JON.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
WHOEVER YOU ARE, PUT ON SOME CLOTHES FOR GOD'S SAKE!
OR AT LEAST FOR MINE!
WHAT'S HE DOING?
VEIDT?

I'M SORRY FOR SUMMONING YOU LIKE THAT, JON, BUT I'VE COME HERE TO TALK.
THAT'S ALL.
TRIPPY!
SO LET'S TALK.

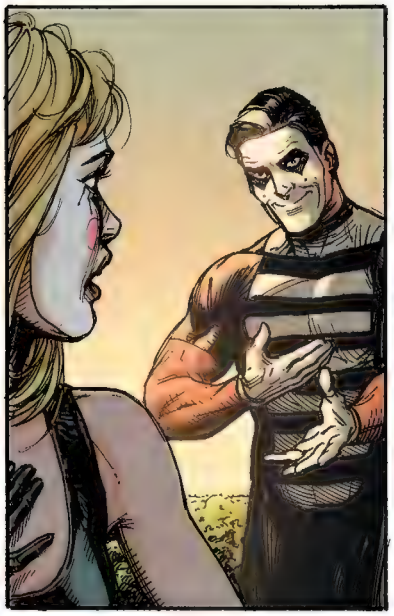
I HAD NO CHOICE, YOU UNDERSTAND.
YOU KNOW OUR WORLD IS IN TROUBLE. I'VE COME TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP.


I FAILED TO SAVE IT FROM ITSELF.
NOW *YOU'RE* THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN.

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY FOR NOTHING, ADRIAN.
I'M NOT GOING BACK.

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING.

YOU'RE THINKING I'VE ONCE AGAIN TURNED MY BACK ON HUMANITY.
THAT'S WHY YOU ASKED LAURIE TO COME WITH YOU. TO REMIND ME. SHE REFUSED.
BUT SHE LED YOU TO THEM.
ERIKA MANSON AND MARCOS MAEZ.
I'M AT ROCKEFELLER WITH LAURIE, LISTENING TO HER COMPLAIN ABOUT THE SECURITY CAMERAS INSTALLED IN OUR LIVING QUARTERS.
AS I REMOVE THEM, I'M TOLD THERE'S A BANK ROBBERY IN PROGRESS ONE MILE AWAY.
I ARRIVE TO DISPATCH THE CRIMINALS.
YOU BELIEVE I AM HESITANT TO USE EXTREME FORCE WHEN I LEARN ERIKA MANSON IS PREGNANT.
BUT I DID NOT SPARE YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE PREGNANT, ERIKA MANSON.
I SAW WHAT YOUR CHILD WOULD DO AND I CHOSE TO SAVE HIM.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT DID MY CHILD DO?
WHICH CHILD?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHICH CHILD?
AH, YES. SOMETIMES I FORGET WHAT'S BEEN AND WHAT WILL BE.
YOU'RE PREGNANT AGAIN.
WHAT?



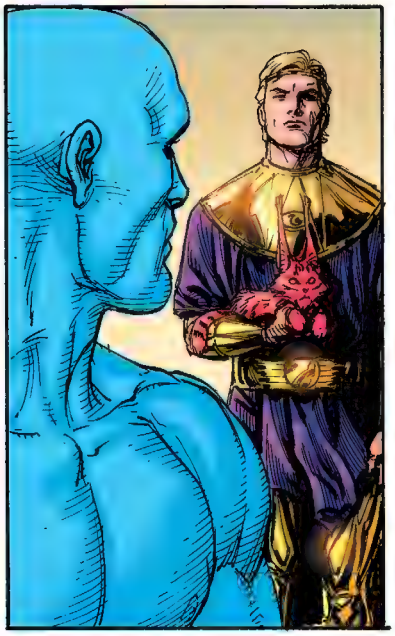
JON...
YOUR PLEADING WILL NOT CHANGE MY MIND, ADRIAN.
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.
I WAS. I AM. I WILL BE.

MANHATTAN ...
HEY! SOMEONE GONNA UNTIE ME?! JON!
NEED TO LISTEN.

VEIDT ISN'T SAME MAN YOU KNEW.
WAS GOING TO KILL HIM MYSELF FOR WHAT HE DID.

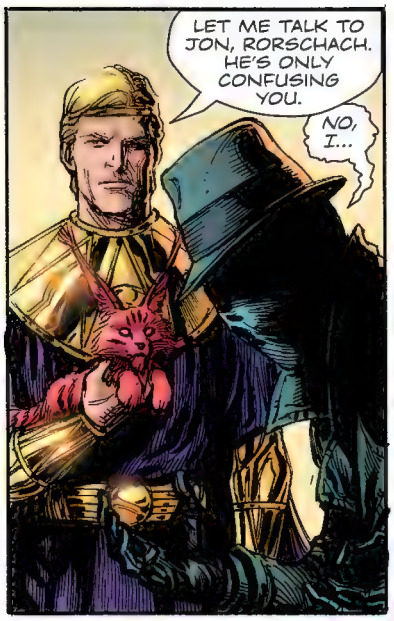
BUT FOUND HIM. CHANGED. DYING FROM CANCER.

CANCER?

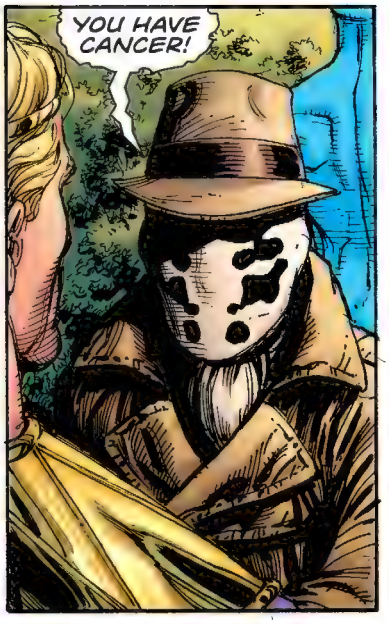


ADRIAN DOES NOT HAVE CANCER.

NO. LOOK AGAIN.
HE'S SICK.


LET ME TALK TO JON, RORSCHACH. HE'S ONLY CONFUSING YOU.
NO, I...

YOU HAVE CANCER.
RORSCHACH, HOLD ON...

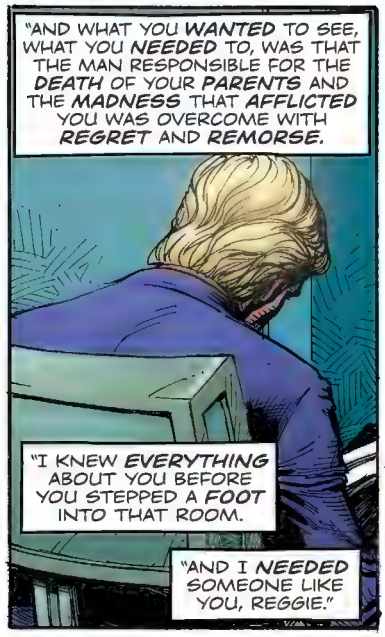

YOU HAVE CANCER!

AS WE HOVER HERE, YOU TELL HIM THE TRUTH, ADRIAN.
BECAUSE YOU KNOW I WILL.

I DON'T HAVE CANCER. I NEVER DID.
WHU...? WHY WOULD YOU...LIE...
BECAUSE I NEEDED YOUR HELP.
DON'T UNDERSTAND.

OH, REGGIE.

YOU SEE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE.


"AND WHAT YOU WANTED TO SEE, WHAT YOU NEEDED TO, WAS THAT THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF YOUR PARENTS AND THE MADNESS THAT AFFLICTED YOU WAS OVERCOME WITH REGRET AND REMORSE.
"I KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU BEFORE YOU STEPPED A FOOT INTO THAT ROOM.
"AND I NEEDED SOMEONE LIKE YOU, REGGIE."

STOP CALLING ME REGGIE.
I AM RORSCHACH!

RORSCHACH? PLEASE.
YOU SAW WHAT YOU WANTED TO SEE WITH RORSCHACH, TOO.
YOU BELIEVED YOU WERE TAKING UP THE MASK OF A FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER'S.
"BUT WALTER KOVACS WAS NEVER YOUR FATHER'S FRIEND.
"IF BYRON LEWIS HADN'T KEPT MOST OF YOUR FATHER'S NOTES FROM YOU, YOU WOULD'VE SEEN THAT.
"BYRON WAS TRYING TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE TRUTH: THAT RORSCHACH BROKE DOWN YOUR FATHER'S UNDYING POSITIVITY AND LEFT HIM A SHELL OF THE MAN HE WAS.
"HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MOTHER DETERIORATED INTO NOTHINGNESS.
"SHE LEFT HIM, REGGIE.
YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER DID NOT DIE IN A LOVING EMBRACE.
THEY DIED DESPISING ONE ANOTHER.
ALONE.
NO.
NO.
IS IT TRUE?
IS IT?

FU THE BAT
IT IS.

WHY ARE YOU HERE, JON?

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND A PLACE AMONG THEM.
BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED. AS I LOOKED FORWARD...

"I SAW A VISION OF THE MOST HOPEFUL AMONG THEM.
"HEADING TOWARD ME.
"NOW HOPELESS.

AND THEN...
I SAW NOTHING.

"TWO MEN WERE PLAYING A GAME OF CHESS.
REVIVA
NATHANIE
THE
BOTH WERE SHOT AND KILLED BEFORE THE GAME WAS FINISHED.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, JON? THAT YOUR VISIONS END?
WHO DID YOU SEE?
WHY BRING US HERE?
WHERE THE HELL IS HERE?
THE REVIVAL THEATER IN HOLLYWOOD, PLAYING A MIDNIGHT SHOWING OF CARVER COLMAN'S LAST FILM. THE ADJOURNMENT.
IT'S APRIL, 1954. I STAND ON THE SET AND WATCH.
IT'S JUNE. I SEE CARVER COLMAN'S BODY ON THE FLOOR, HIS HEAD CAVED IN.
CARVER COLMAN WAS ONCE FULL OF HOPE, TOO.
BUT I WAS WRONG, ADRIAN.
EVERYTHING ENDS.
WHAT'S THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING, JON?
WE'VE TALKED ENOUGH.
GOOD-BYE.
JON, WAI...

T!

WE NEED TO CALL HIM BACK.
HE HAS TO LISTEN...

LISTEN TO ME!

WHY COULDN'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?!

YOU WON'T MIND IF WE BORROW THIS...

:GG:

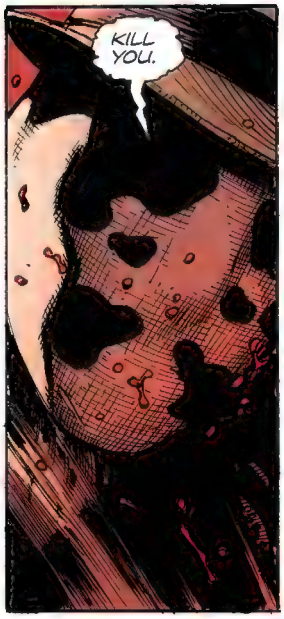
YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE YET...

YOU'RE STILL WEARING THE MASK OF THE MAN WHO DESTROYED YOUR FATHER.

WHATEVER WE MISSED WAS A DOOZY!
THAT'S ENOUGH, JOKER.

HUSH NOW. DADDY'S SPEAKING!

I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS MONTHS AGO.


KILL YOU.

A LITTLE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM, IF I MAY...

TOUCH...

DON'T TOUCH ME!
GET THE FREAK!
FORGET THE LANTERN, WE GOT BLAKE.

LET'S GO CELEBRATE, LOVER.
WE'RE HAVING A BABY.

HEH... HA HO... HEH...
DID YOU ENJOY IT AS MUH-MUCH AS I DUH-DID?

DEAD.

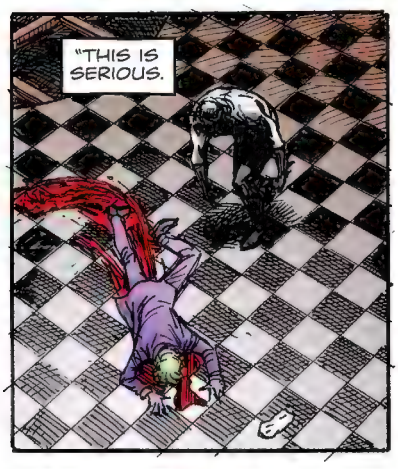
RORSCHACH IS DEAD.

WHAT HAPPENED?
REOW!
KFF!
MY GOD!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY... I LEARNED A FEW THINGS THE HARD WAY.
WAIT. YOUR THOUGHTS... YOUR MIND. I CAN READ IT.
NO. THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN. YOU CAN'T...
EHN!
WHAT HAVE YOU...
KKAA!
JON REFUSES THE CALL.
BUT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE I HAVE NOW, BUBASTIS, I REALIZE I CAN SAVE MORE THAN OUR WORLD.
I CAN SAVE THIS ONE, TOO.
I CAN SAVE EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY.
I HAVE A PLAN.

"WHAT DO YOU SEE?"

I SEE BLACK ADAM! HE'S ENTERED JERUSALEM AND...

"JAKE, WE NEED TO TAKE COVER!


"THIS IS SERIOUS.

"WE'RE EXPOSED OUT HERE.

"WHAT'S THAT?
LOIS LANE
C/O THE DAILY PLANET
2525 BROADWAY
METROPOLIS, NY 10025

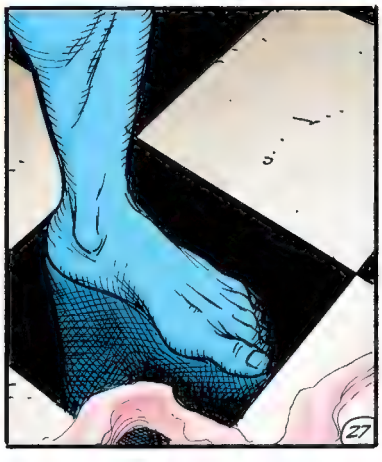
"SOMETHING'S CREEPING THROUGH THE DARKNESS.

"I THINK IT'S FOLLOWING US."
"HAHAHAHAHAHA!
"BEWARE THE CREEPER!"

"EEEYAAAAAA..."

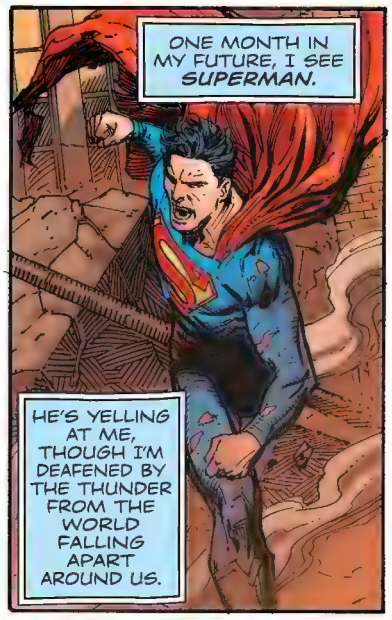
"MARK? MARK, ARE YOU THERE?"
TWO MEN WERE PLAYING CHESS.

NONE CAME OUT ALIVE.


27

I STEP OFF A CHECKERBOARD FLOOR AND ONTO THE SURFACE OF MARS.

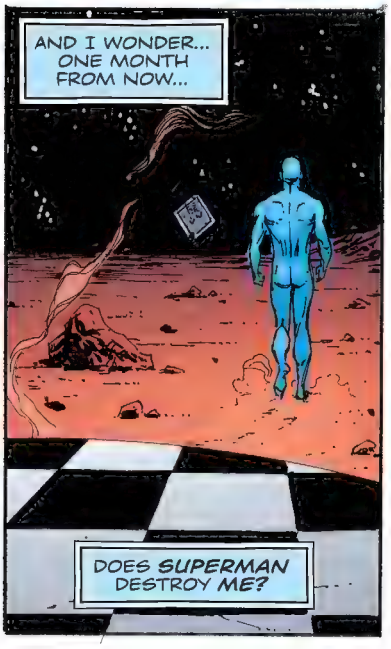
I'M OVERCOME WITH CURIOSITY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1959.

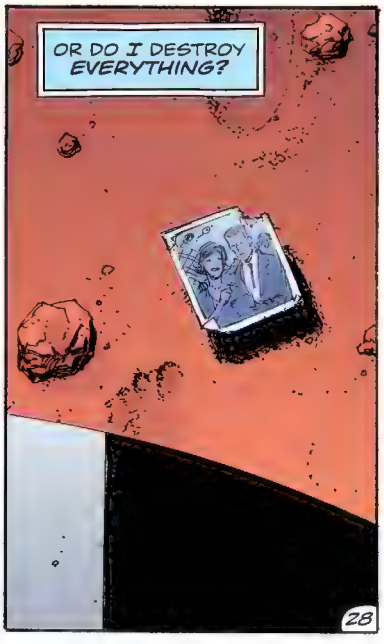

ONE MONTH IN MY FUTURE, I SEE SUPERMAN.
HE'S YELLING AT ME, THOUGH I'M DEAFENED BY THE THUNDER FROM THE WORLD FALLING APART AROUND US.

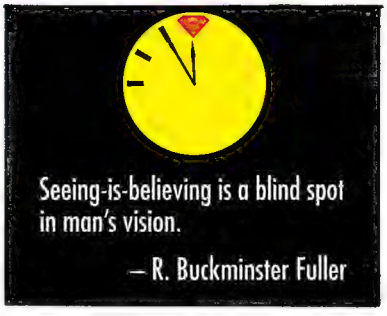
HIS EYES BURN WITH ANGER AS HE THROWS HIS FIST FORWARD.

THEN I SEE NOTHING.
A YEAR. A CENTURY. A MILLENNIUM.
STILL NOTHING.

I DO NOT SEE TOMORROW.


AND I WONDER... ONE MONTH FROM NOW...
DOES SUPERMAN DESTROY ME?


OR DO I DESTROY EVERYTHING?
28


Seeing-is-believing is a blind spot in man's vision.
– R. Buckminster Fuller

VEIDT **Adrian Veidt**
President and C.E.O.

November 7, 1985

Kelley Popham
Vice President Public Relations and Communications

Dear Kelley,

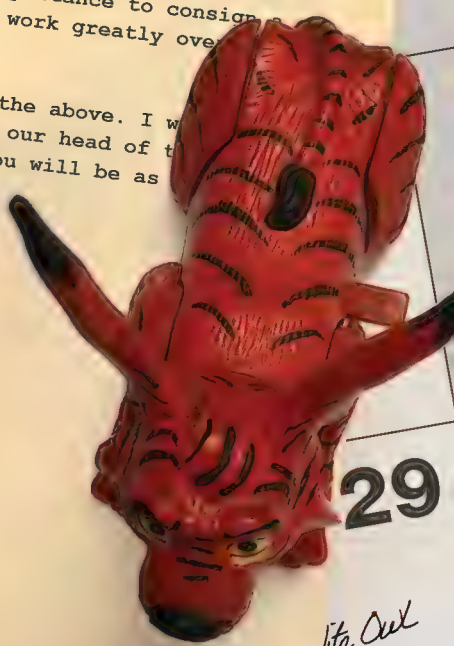
As you have heard by now my loyal and dear friend Bubastis has died. I had theorized her unique genetics had left her vulnerable to the psychic backlash in Manhattan. After some investigation, I'm sorry to confirm she is indeed one of the victims of the New York Massacre. Gratefully, I do not believe she suffered in any way. However, to say I am devastated by her death would be an understatement. As the world mourns, I too mourn the only family I had.

In honor of Bubastis, Veidt Industries will put every resource it has into saving all endangered species. We will create groundbreaking sanctuaries throughout the world and fund unparalleled research in curing prevalent and painful diseases that affect them. I would also like to find an artist of rising importance to consign a statue of Bubastis; perhaps Jeff Koons as I have enjoyed his work greatly ove years.

I have organized a meeting with my executive team to discuss the above. I w want press there. Before the meeting, I ask you to speak with our head of t Non-Profit Animal Services Division, Marti Kheel. I am sure you will be as impressed with her as I am.

Love to you and your family,

Adrian Veidt



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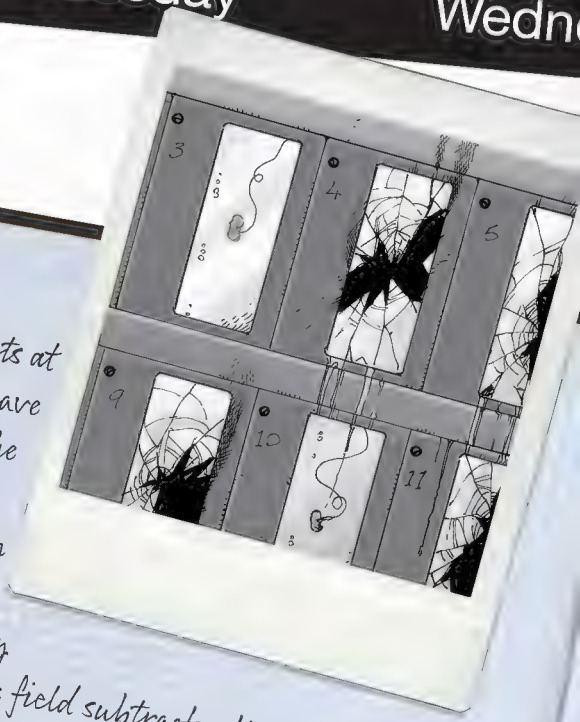


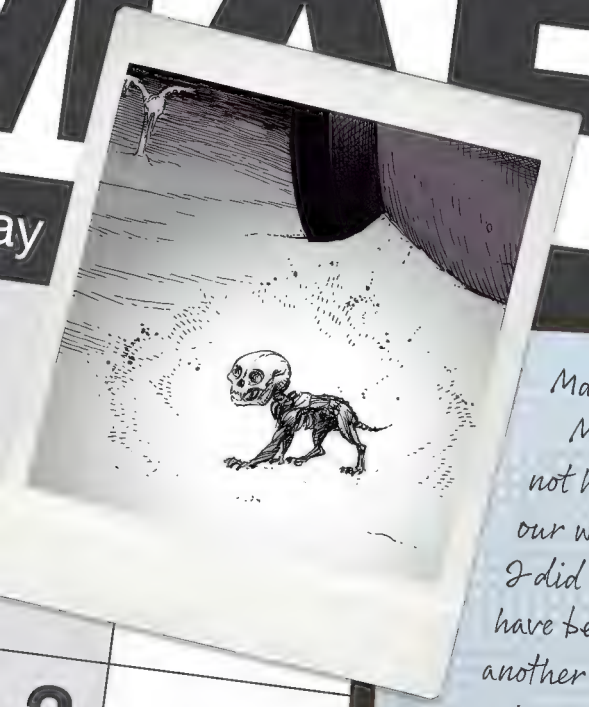
August 1, 1986

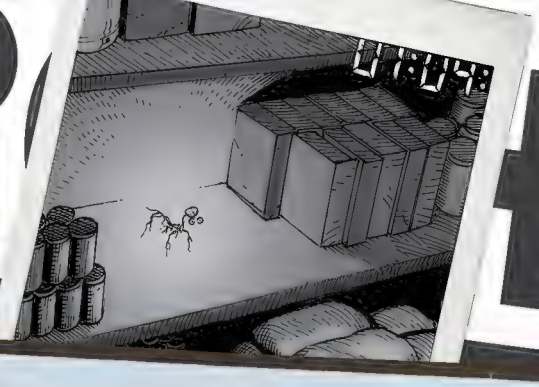
My initial attempts at cloning Bubastis have proven difficult. The DNA in the somatic cells I recovered from her ashy remains had been unexpectedly altered by the intrinsic field substractor that killed her. The first eggs to be "fertilized" grew quickly, but every fetus died at week 15.

October 4, 1986

I had forgotten the animated series featuring myself and Bubastis was due to premiere this morning. It is a silly cartoon, even sillier in the wake of last year, but it has made me nostalgic for my old friend.

I find myself once again attempting to re-create Bubastis. I have isolated the missing links in her DNA and will search for a compatible animal that might fill them. Although this will take time, I have hope that one day it will prove successful.





March 7, 1992

My most recent attempt to clone Bubastis may not have been a failure after all. Under the guise of our work for animals, there was not a species' DNA I did not have access to. But over the years, none have been successful. Out of desperation, I turned to another source of DNA found within Bubastis's remains—Jon's. I had thought myself foolish, particularly after the fetus detonated. But last night, Karnak's cameras caught a glimpse of a catlike nervous system wandering the halls. I remain optimistic.

March 20, 1992

This morning, a circulatory system was caught in the loading docks. I can barely sleep.

March 22, 1992

Bubastis II's skeletal system was spotted last night. I am giddy.

March 31, 1992

At dinner, I felt a wave of static electricity wash over me. I saw a spark at the end of my fork. I heard her cry. Then I saw her. Frightened, up against the wall, under the monitors she once watched alongside me. Bubastis II is here. And she is more beautiful than I ever could have imagined.

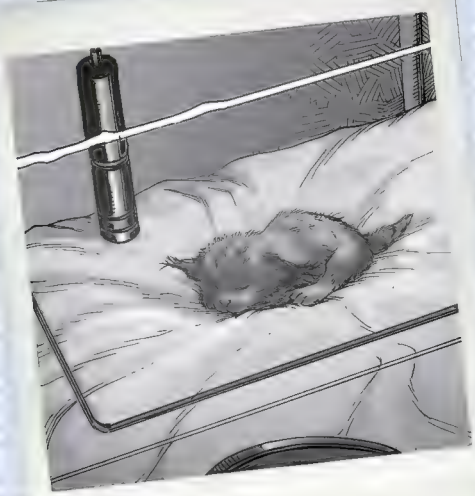
November 18, 1992

The Owlship is now capable of locating and traveling to the universe Jon has retreated to, but once there finding him could prove difficult. Thankfully, I have Bubastis.

Bubastis will function much like the tachyon particles I once used to blur Jon's temporal vision. She gives off a similar energy, though isolated. Jon will not be able to see her or things around her as clearly as the rest of the world. She is a living blind spot.

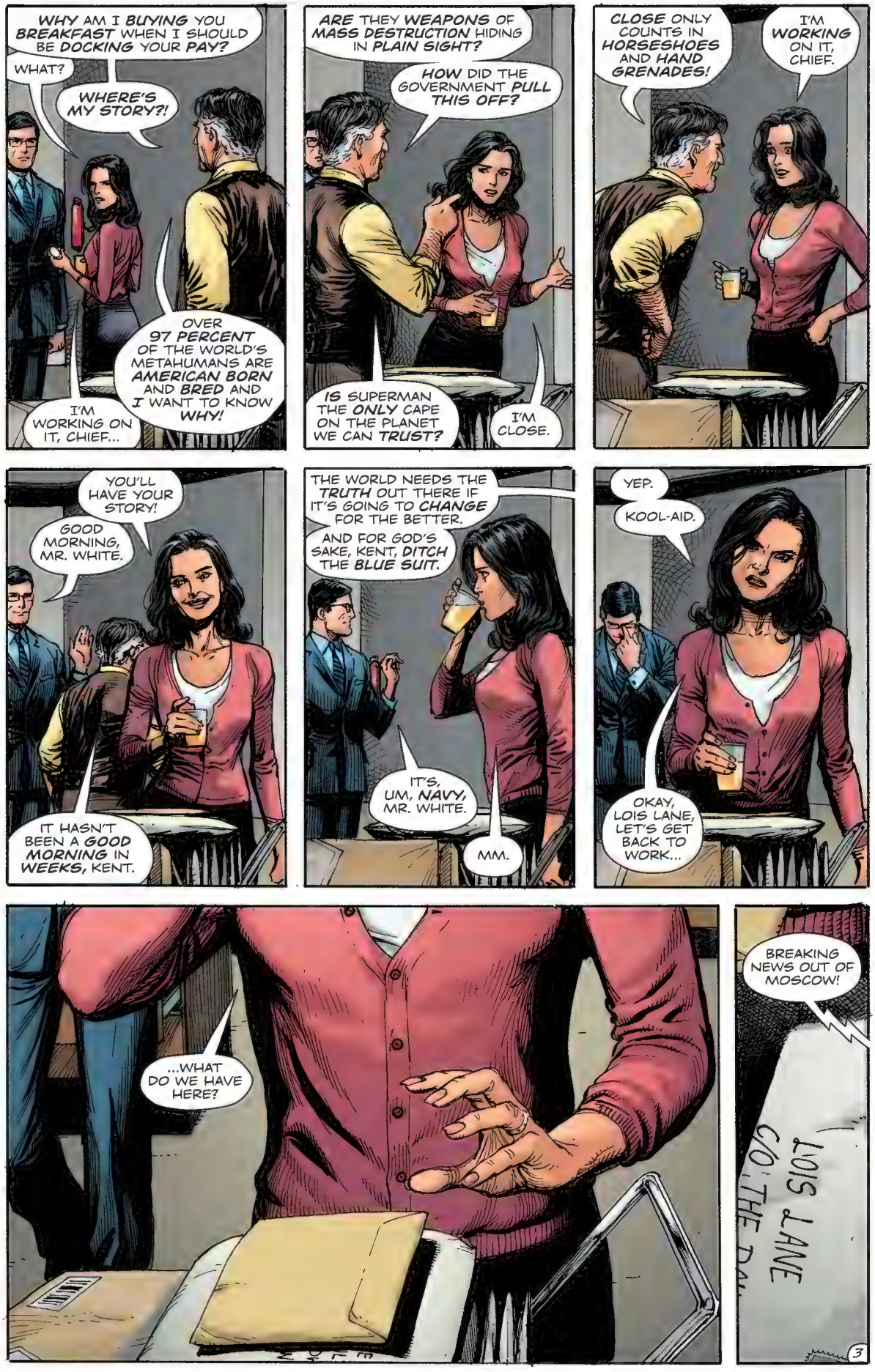
Bubastis will also lead me to Jon. She will be able to track and collect the tachyon particles Jon himself leaves behind. And once she absorbs enough of them, Jon will be unable to ignore her. He will be drawn to her. To me.

Bubastis is going to help me save the world. And this time I will do anything so that she may live to see it.



# SAVE HUMANITY

"IT'S A CRIME, CLARK."
HEY! YOU GOTTA PAY FOR THAT!
UM, WHAT'S A CRIME, LOIS?
SOMEONE WENT THROUGH MY DESK!
YOUR DESK ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE THAT.
Daily Planet
BREAK-IN AT THE WHITE HOUSE
NO, I HAVE A SYSTEM HERE.
NOT TO MENTION MY DRAWERS WERE LOCKED.
THE LOCKS AREN'T BROKEN...
AND I DON'T SEE ANY FINGERPRINTS.
MS. LANE?
GOT YOUR ORANGE JUICE RIGHT HERE.
MORNING, JIM.
OH! MR. KENT... I, UM, GOSH, I'M SORRY. I FORGOT TO GET YOUR ORDER.
IS THIS FRESHLY SQUEEZED? IT LOOKS LIKE KOOL-AID.
I DON'T DRINK KOOL-AID, JIMMY.
THEY WERE ALL OUT OF O.J., SO I...
LANE!
2


WHY AM I BUYING YOU BREAKFAST WHEN I SHOULD BE DOCKING YOUR PAY?
WHAT?
WHERE'S MY STORY?!
OVER 97 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S METAHUMANS ARE AMERICAN BORN AND BRED AND I WANT TO KNOW WHY!
I'M WORKING ON IT, CHIEF...
ARE THEY WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT?
HOW DID THE GOVERNMENT PULL THIS OFF?
IS SUPERMAN THE ONLY CAPE ON THE PLANET WE CAN TRUST?
I'M CLOSE.
CLOSE ONLY COUNTS IN HORSESHOES AND HAND GRENADES!
I'M WORKING ON IT, CHIEF.
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR STORY!
GOOD MORNING, MR. WHITE.
IT HASN'T BEEN A GOOD MORNING IN WEEKS, KENT.
THE WORLD NEEDS THE TRUTH OUT THERE IF IT'S GOING TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.
AND FOR GOD'S SAKE, KENT, DITCH THE BLUE SUIT.
IT'S, UM, NAVY, MR. WHITE.
MM.
YEP.
KOOL-AID.
OKAY, LOIS LANE, LET'S GET BACK TO WORK...
...WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
BREAKING NEWS OUT OF MOSCOW!
LOIS LANE
GO THE DA
3

HUNDREDS HAD GATHERED EARLIER TODAY, PROTESTING RUSSIA'S NEW METAHUMAN LAWS...

...FORCING EVERY NEWBORN TO BE TESTED AT BIRTH FOR THE METAGENE.
STORIES OF BABIES ALREADY BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY HAVE LED TO PROTESTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

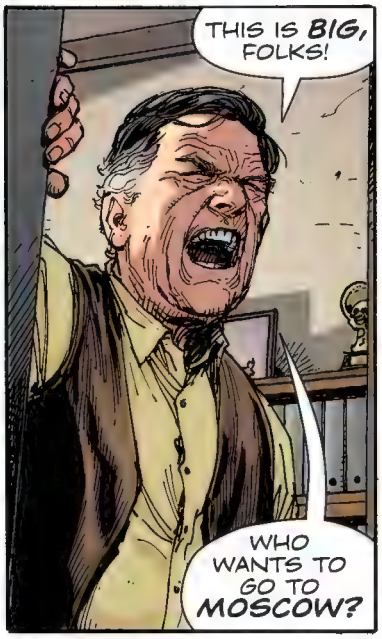
AND SECONDS AGO, CONTROVERSIAL METAHUMAN FIRESTORM ILLEGALLY ENTERED RUSSIAN AIRSPACE AND ATTACKED THE PEOPLE'S HEROES.
VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE PITTSBURGH-BASED SUPERHERO...

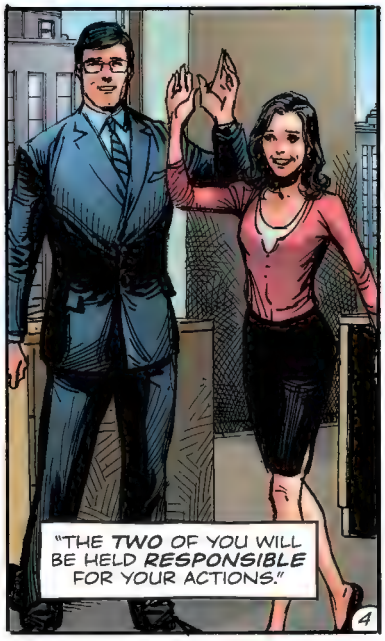
...ALTHOUGH SPECULATION THAT HE IS CONNECTED TO THE SUPERMEN THEORY CONTINUES, FIRESTORM HAS INTENSELY DENIED THE ACCUSATIONS.

FIRESTORM?
FIRESTORM WASN'T CREATED BY SOME SECRET GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, LOIS.
RONNIE RAYMOND AND PROFESSOR MARTIN STEIN WERE IN A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT THAT FUSED THEM TOGETHER.

RONNIE'S IN CONTROL OF THE BODY, THE PROFESSOR ADVISES HIM TELEPATHICALLY. BUT RONNIE'S JUST A KID...

...KNOWN FOR HIS TEMPER.
WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO YELL TO GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION AROUND HERE?


THIS IS BIG, FOLKS!
WHO WANTS TO GO TO MOSCOW?


"THE TWO OF YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS."

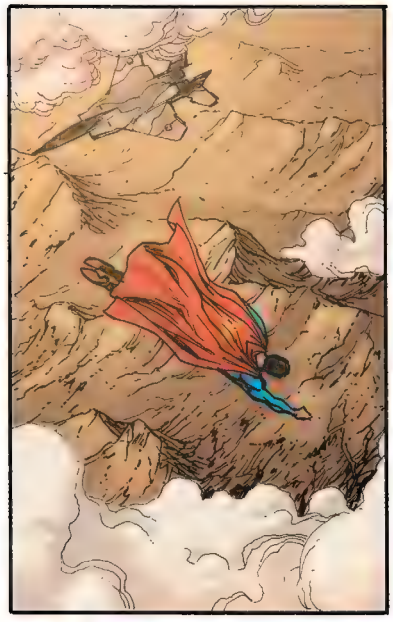
DO YOU HEAR ME IN THERE, STEIN?
SURELY YOU KNOW COMING HERE IS AT BEST FOOLISH AND AT WORST CRIMINAL.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SURRENDER BEFORE MORE LAWS ARE BROKEN.
DON'T BLAME STEIN, POZHAR. THE PROFESSOR'S ALONG FOR THE RIDE THIS TIME!
HE DIDN'T WANT TO COME HERE. HE DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT.
BUT I KNOW IT'S YOU AND YOUR RUSSIAN GOONS THAT ARE TRYING TO DESTROY MY LIFE!
YOU'RE EMOTIONAL.
"IRRATIONAL."
WE MUST KEEP HIM CLEAR OF THE CROWDS.
DA, CHRISTINA.
HEY!
DO NOT TOUCH ME!
AAH!
HE HURRRT THEM.
WE HURRRT HIM BACK.
NYYAAAA!
5

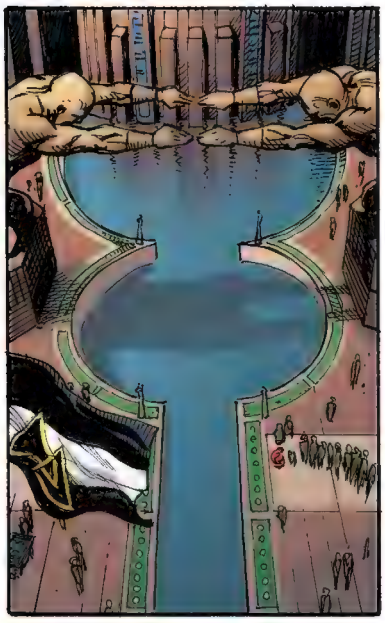
PRUH-PROFESSOR?!
I CUH-CAN'T HEAR YOU!
PLEASE, ANSWER ME!
I NUH... NEED YOU...
YOU'RE SO QUIET, BUT...
GET BACK ON MY FEET, YEAH. BACK IN THE SKY, I...I'M TRYING. THE FIRE'S OUT, BUT I...
NO! LET GO!
LET GO OF ME!
LET.
GO.
6

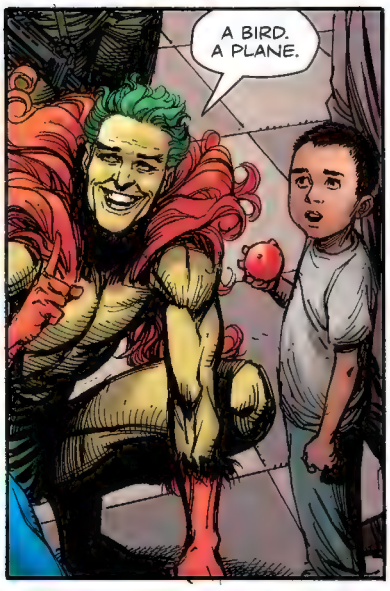
PROFESSOR...
OH MY GOD. I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

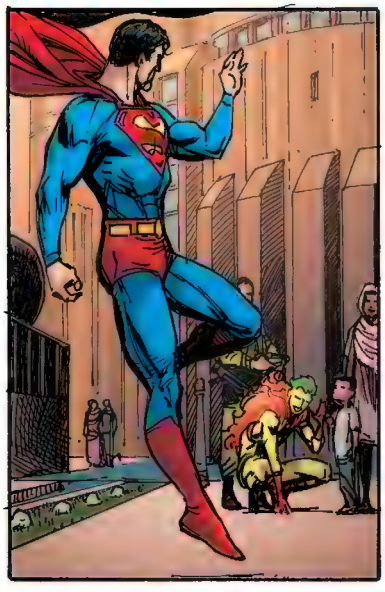
WHAT DID I DO?

DID HE... DID HE KILL ALL THOSE PEOPLE?
WHERE'S HE GOING?
PRIME MINISTER MEDVEDEV IS CALLING THIS A CALCULATED TERRORIST ATTACK CARRIED OUT BY ONE OF THE UNITED STATES' MOST DANGEROUS METAHUMAN AGENTS...
ROM MOSCOW
IT CAN'T BE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
CAN IT, CLARK?
CLARK?
THE WHITE HOUSE IS ALREADY DENYING ANY RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN FIRESTORM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS.
THERE SUPES GOES! HE'S GONNA BRING FIRESTORM IN, I BET YA.
YEAH. SUPERMAN'S GOING TO CLEAR THIS ALL UP.
"AND EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY."

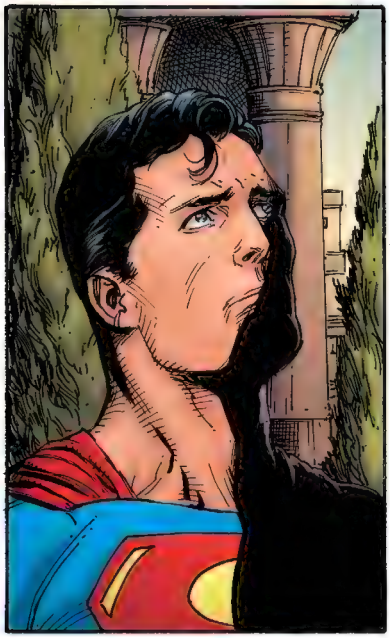


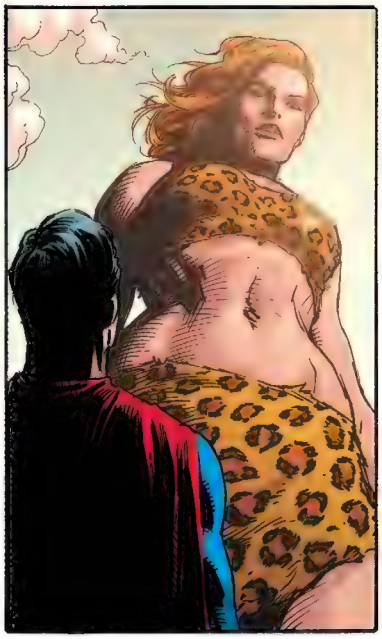



A BIRD.
A PLANE.



A SUPERMAN.
HAHAHAHAHAHA

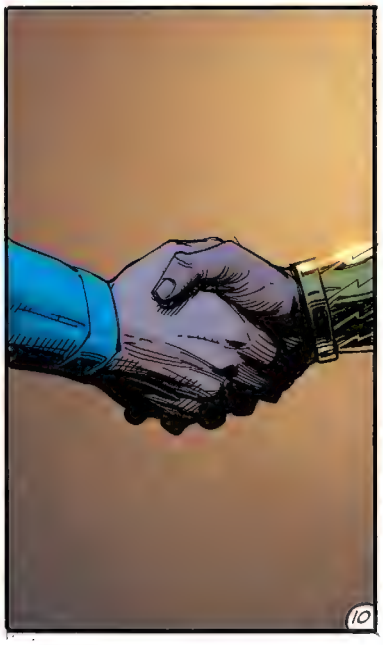




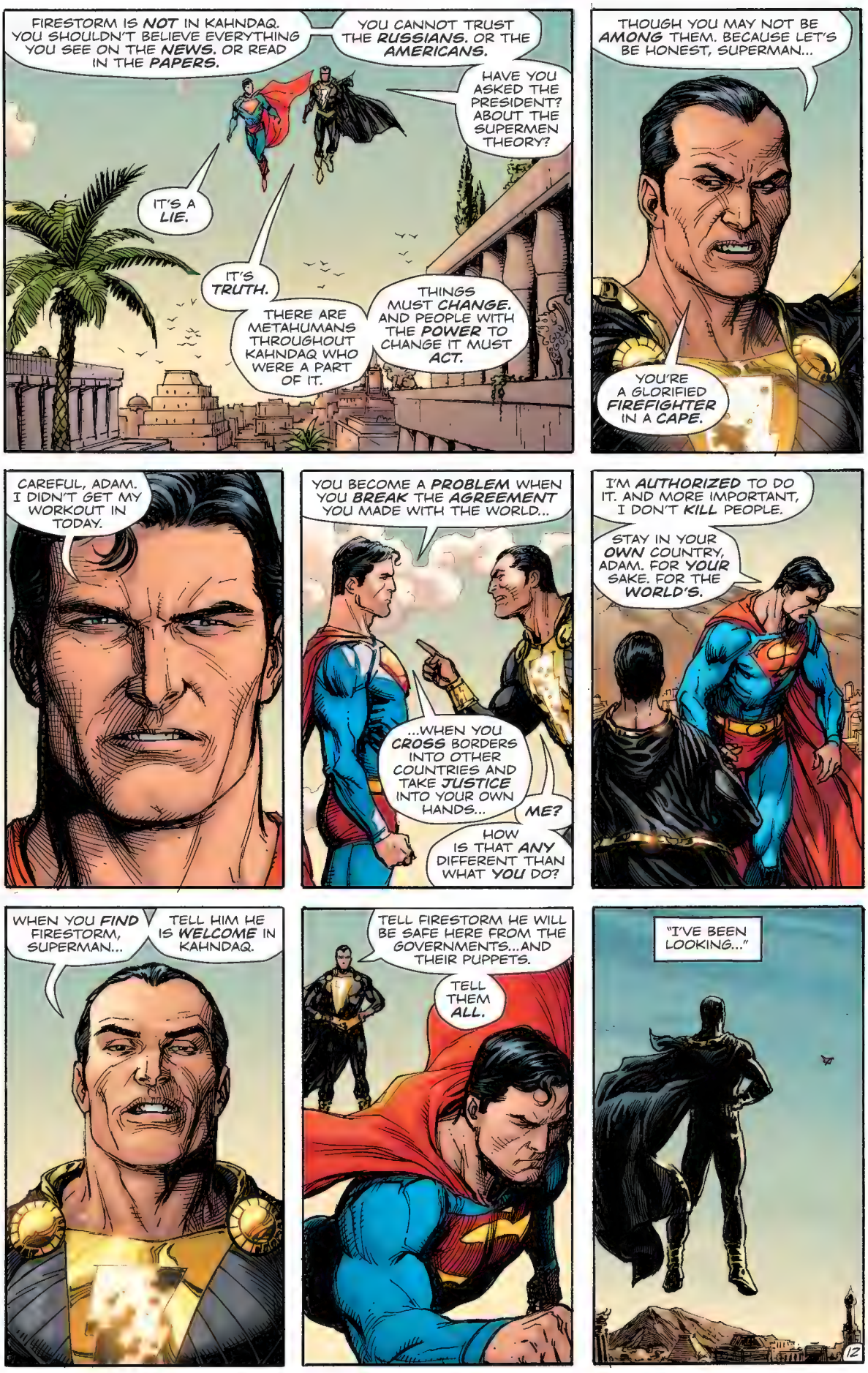
9

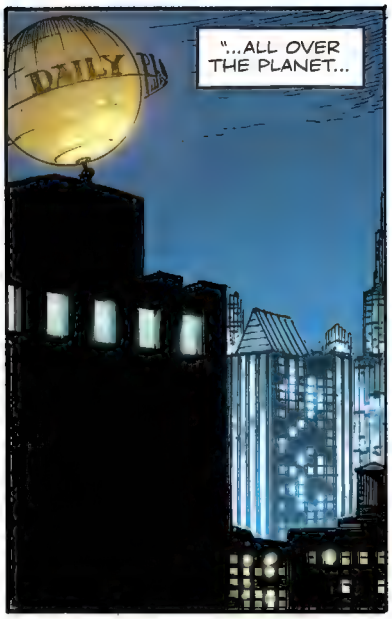
HELLO, SUPERMAN.

WELCOME TO KAHNDAQ.


10

AS YOU CAN SEE, KAHNDAQ IS A PLACE OF PEACE FOR ALL. HUMAN AND METAHUMAN ALIKE.
WE HAVE NO SECRETS.
NO ONE TO HIDE.
THIS IS SANDSTORM.
SUPERMAN!
HI. I...
YOU'RE REALLY HERE!
SANDSTORM? HE'S...
A BOY.
NABIL AZMAH. FROM DOUMA, SYRIA.
HIS FAMILY WAS KILLED IN THE CIVIL WAR, HIS YOUNGER SISTER GASSED BY ASSAD, THE RUSSIANS' PUPPET.
HE USED HIS POWER OVER THE DESERT SANDS TO FREE THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN FROM ENSLAVEMENT, INCLUDING HIMSELF.
HE BROUGHT THEM TO KAHNDAQ WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME.
EVEN FIRESTORM.
THAT IS WHY YOU'RE HERE, IS IT NOT?
I HEAR THE SAME RUMORS YOU DO. THAT FIRESTORM FLED TO KAHNDAQ.
I ONLY WANT TO TALK TO HIM. I WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED.
THAT'S ALL.


FIRESTORM IS NOT IN KAHNDAQ. YOU SHOULDN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU SEE ON THE NEWS, OR READ IN THE PAPERS.
YOU CANNOT TRUST THE RUSSIANS, OR THE AMERICANS.
HAVE YOU ASKED THE PRESIDENT? ABOUT THE SUPERMEN THEORY?
IT'S A LIE.
IT'S TRUTH.
THERE ARE METAHUMANS THROUGHOUT KAHNDAQ WHO WERE A PART OF IT.
THINGS MUST CHANGE. AND PEOPLE WITH THE POWER TO CHANGE IT MUST ACT.
THOUGH YOU MAY NOT BE AMONG THEM. BECAUSE LET'S BE HONEST, SUPERMAN...
YOU'RE A GLORIFIED FIREFIGHTER IN A CAPE.
CAREFUL, ADAM. I DIDN'T GET MY WORKOUT IN TODAY.
YOU BECOME A PROBLEM WHEN YOU BREAK THE AGREEMENT YOU MADE WITH THE WORLD...
...WHEN YOU CROSS BORDERS INTO OTHER COUNTRIES AND TAKE JUSTICE INTO YOUR OWN HANDS...
ME?
HOW IS THAT ANY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU DO?
I'M AUTHORIZED TO DO IT. AND MORE IMPORTANT, I DON'T KILL PEOPLE.
STAY IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY, ADAM. FOR YOUR SAKE. FOR THE WORLD'S.
WHEN YOU FIND FIRESTORM, SUPERMAN...
TELL HIM HE IS WELCOME IN KAHNDAQ.
TELL FIRESTORM HE WILL BE SAFE HERE FROM THE GOVERNMENTS...AND THEIR PUPPETS.
TELL THEM ALL.
"I'VE BEEN LOOKING..."
12


"...ALL OVER THE PLANET..

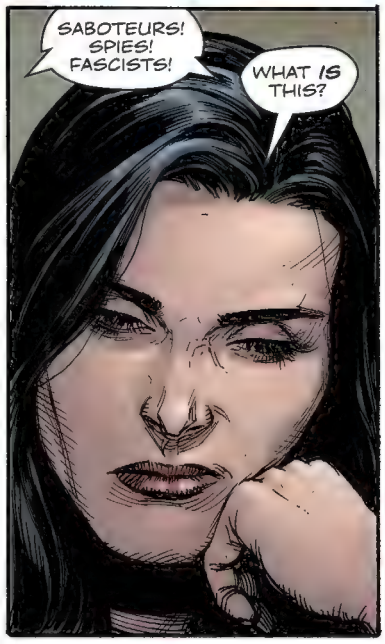
...FOR SOMEPLACE RONNIE WOULD GO TO AVOID DETECTION.
AND AVOID HURTING ANYONE ELSE.
I DON'T THINK HE EVER LEFT RUSSIA, CLARK.
ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. THANKS, LO.
BE CAREFUL.

NO RETURN ADDRESS...

HUH.

WHO SENT ME THIS?

...COMPANY PRESENTS... THE AMERICAN NEWS!
IT'S APRIL 2ND, 1941! AND AS THE WAR RAGES ON OVERSEAS, BACK HOME THERE'S TROUBLE!


SABOTEURS! SPIES! FASCISTS!
WHAT IS THIS?

AND ONLY THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA CAN STOP THEM!
THE... WHAT?

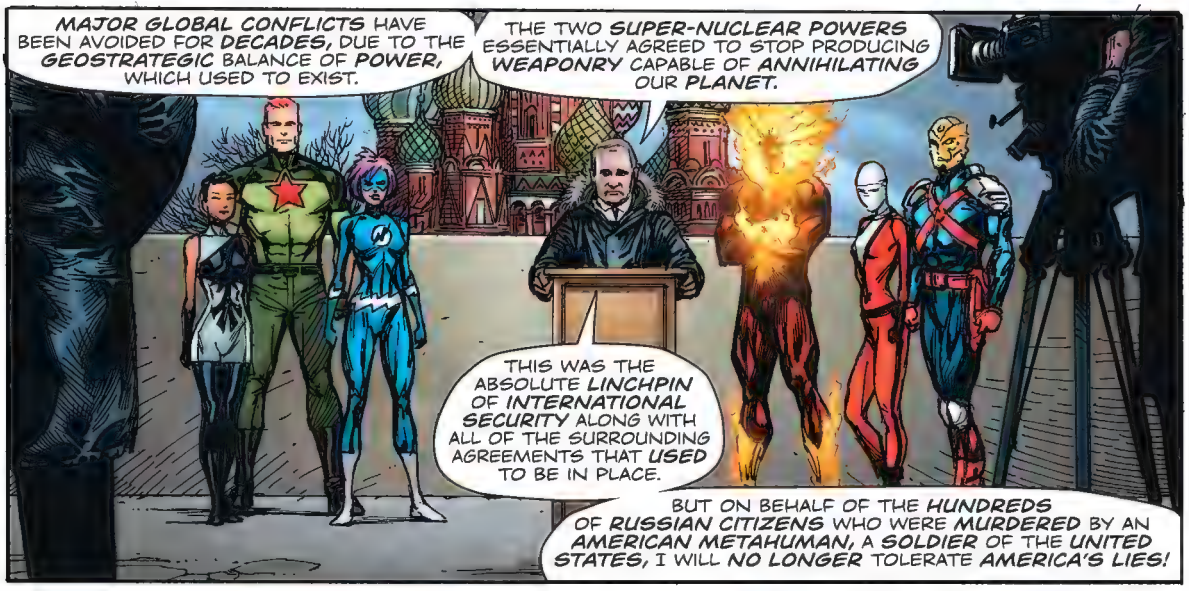
"WHO THE HELL ARE THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA?"
WE NEED TO TRY AGAIN, PROFESSOR!
NO, I WON'T GIVE UP!
AAAAAAAAA!
COME ON!
PLEASE!
YOU NEED TO SHUH-SHOW ME HOW, PROFESSOR!
NO! WE CAN DO IT!
TELL ME HOW TO DO IT!
14

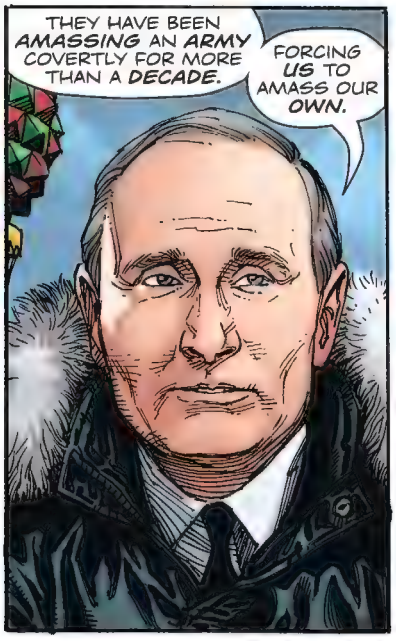
WHAT HAPPENED, RONNIE?
SUPERMAN?
PLEASE.
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU. I DUH-DON'T...
I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE PEOPLE?
TO THIS... CHILD?
I CAN TRUST SUPERMAN, PROFESSOR!
BECAUSE EVERYONE CAN!
TELL PROFESSOR STEIN I ONLY WANT TO HELP.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THIS CHILD?
I CAN TRANSMUTE ELEMENTS. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SINCE THE PROFESSOR AND I COULD FUSE TOGETHER.
BUT MY POWERS HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO AFFECT ANYTHING ORGANIC.
UNTIL NOW. I TURNED THEM TO...GLASS. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT...
YOU'RE TRYING TO CHANGE THIS BOY BACK.
THE PROFESSOR SAYS I CAN'T, BUT...
YOU DID IT ONCE, RONNIE. MAYBE IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, OR IT TRIGGERED THROUGH STRESS. MAYBE YOUR POWERS COULD BE EVOLVING.
I DON'T KNOW, BUT YOU DID IT.
YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN.
15

YEAH, I... I CAN TRY.
BUT THE PROFESSOR IS RIGHT. YOU NEED TO LEAVE. PUSHING MYSELF LIKE THIS, I'LL BECOME UNSTABLE.
I COULD DETONATE.
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU.
BUT...
I'LL BE FINE.
OKAY. YEAH. LET'S TRY THIS...
THINK POSITIVE, PROFESSOR! OKAY? OKAY...
YyAAAAA!!!
GOD, PLEASE.
PLEASE LET THIS WORRRRRR
KKKKKAAAEEEEE!
16

WE... WE DID IT.
WE FREAKING DID IT!
SUPERMAN.
PRIVET.
SUPERMAN!
IS HE REALLY ALL RIGHT?
HE'S REALLY ALL RIGHT.
AND EVERYONE ELSE IN MOSCOW WILL BE, TOO.
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, RONNIE.
THANK YOU, SUPERMAN.
THE PROFESSOR SAYS THANK YOU, TOO.

THIS IS A MESSAGE TO AMERICA FOR ALL THE WORLD TO HEAR.
WE ARE AT A VIOLENT CROSSROADS, WHERE THE DIRECTION WE TURN WILL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD.


MAJOR GLOBAL CONFLICTS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED FOR DECADES, DUE TO THE GEOSTRATEGIC BALANCE OF POWER, WHICH USED TO EXIST.
THE TWO SUPER-NUCLEAR POWERS ESSENTIALLY AGREED TO STOP PRODUCING WEAPONRY CAPABLE OF ANNIHILATING OUR PLANET.
THIS WAS THE ABSOLUTE LINCHPIN OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ALONG WITH ALL OF THE SURROUNDING AGREEMENTS THAT USED TO BE IN PLACE.
BUT ON BEHALF OF THE HUNDREDS OF RUSSIAN CITIZENS WHO WERE MURDERED BY AN AMERICAN METAHUMAN, A SOLDIER OF THE UNITED STATES, I WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE AMERICA'S LIES!


THEY HAVE BEEN AMASSING AN ARMY COVERTLY FOR MORE THAN A DECADE.
FORCING US TO AMASS OUR OWN.

FIRESTORM WILL BE FOUND WHEREVER HE IS. ALONG WITH EVERYONE CONNECTED TO HIS CREATION.
INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
WE ARE AT WAR...

18

I WAS HOPING I COULD CONVINCE YOU OTHERWISE, SIR.

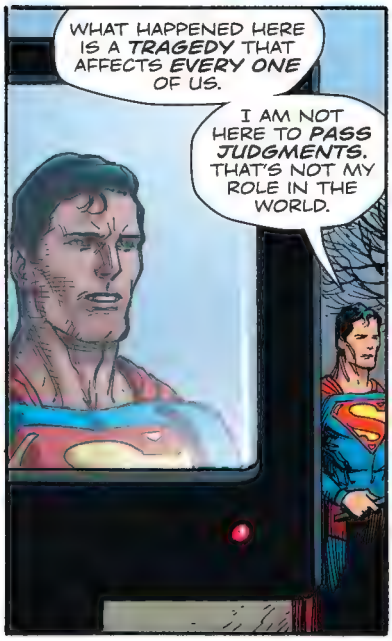
SUPERMAN.
WELCOME, SUPERMAN. THANK YOU FOR COMING. I ASSUME YOU'RE HERE TO HELP.

I AM.

YOU CAN START BY HELPING US FIND FIRESTORM.
TURN HIM OVER.

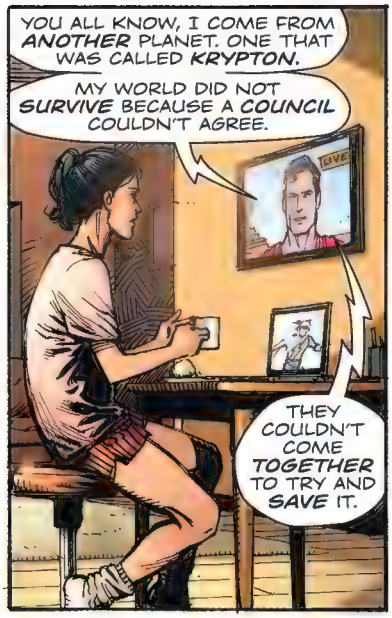
ALTHOUGH YOUR TONE IS UNDERSTANDABLE, POZHAR, REMEMBER SUPERMAN SPEAKS NOT FOR AMERICA, BUT FOR ALL PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET.
THANK YOU. I'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN. TO YOU. TO EVERYONE.
THERE'S STILL HOPE.

I REALIZE IN TIMES LIKE THESE, IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER THAT.


WHAT HAPPENED HERE IS A TRAGEDY THAT AFFECTS EVERY ONE OF US.
I AM NOT HERE TO PASS JUDGMENTS. THAT'S NOT MY ROLE IN THE WORLD.

BUT I AM HERE TO ASK YOU TO TRUST ME.

WHAT FIRESTORM DID WAS AN ACCIDENT.
BUT IT'S ONE THAT CAN BE UNDONE.


YOU ALL KNOW, I COME FROM ANOTHER PLANET. ONE THAT WAS CALLED KRYPTON.
MY WORLD DID NOT SURVIVE BECAUSE A COUNCIL COULDN'T AGREE.
THEY COULDN'T COME TOGETHER TO TRY AND SAVE IT.

WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER NOW.
WE CAN'T LET THOSE TRYING TO DIVIDE US, DIVIDE US EVEN FURTHER.

THE SUPERMEN THEORY HAS SPREAD FEAR AND HATRED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
IT'S THE SOURCE OF THE RIOTS IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND THE STRIFE BETWEEN OUR NATIONS.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
AND THE TRAGEDY HERE IN MOSCOW.

H.F. RADIO
TRANSMITTING
CLARK... IT'S BRUCE.

YOU NEED TO STOP TALKING.
THE...
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

DON'T PICK A SIDE.

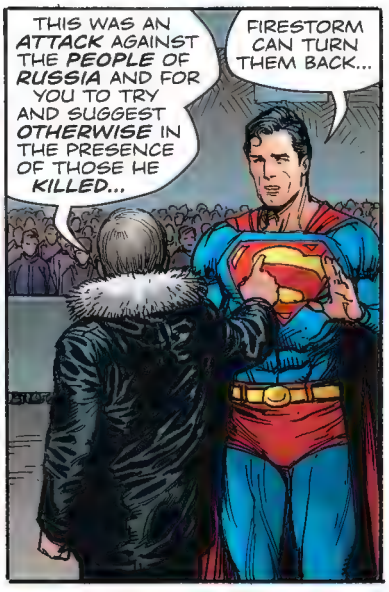
THE DEMONIZATION OF METAHUMANS IS WRONG.

THE DEMONIZATION OF ANY GROUP OF PEOPLE IS WRONG.

FIRESTORM IS NOT THE VILLAIN YOU BELIEVE HE IS.
HE'S A RECKLESS KID WHO HAS TOO MUCH POWER.
HE CAN HELP THESE PEOPLE HE ACCIDENTALLY HURT. HE CAN CHANGE THEM B...

ENOUGH.

I HAVE PROOF. POZHAR DOES.
FIRESTORM IS AN AMERICAN AGENT, SUPERMAN.


THIS WAS AN ATTACK AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF RUSSIA AND FOR YOU TO TRY AND SUGGEST OTHERWISE IN THE PRESENCE OF THOSE HE KILLED...
FIRESTORM CAN TURN THEM BACK...

FIRESTORM MURDERED MY CHILD!

AAAHH!

IT'S HIM!
RUN!

IT'S THE AMERICAN MONSTER!

WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS, SUPERMAN?
IT'S NOT...

NO, WAIT! I CAN FIX IT!
I CAN FIX EVERYTHING, YOU SEE?!

STOP.

MAMA!

STOP!

MAMA!

NO!
YOU'RE KILLING THEM!
WE NEED TO END THIS.
BUT... BUT THAT'S SUPERMAN. WHAT DO WE DO?
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO, CHRISTINA...
...YOU PROTECT OUR COUNTRY OR I PUT YOU BACK IN THAT PRISON YOU WERE ROTTING IN.
LEAVE FIRESTORM TO ME.
YOU HEARD HIM...
STOP SUPERMAN!

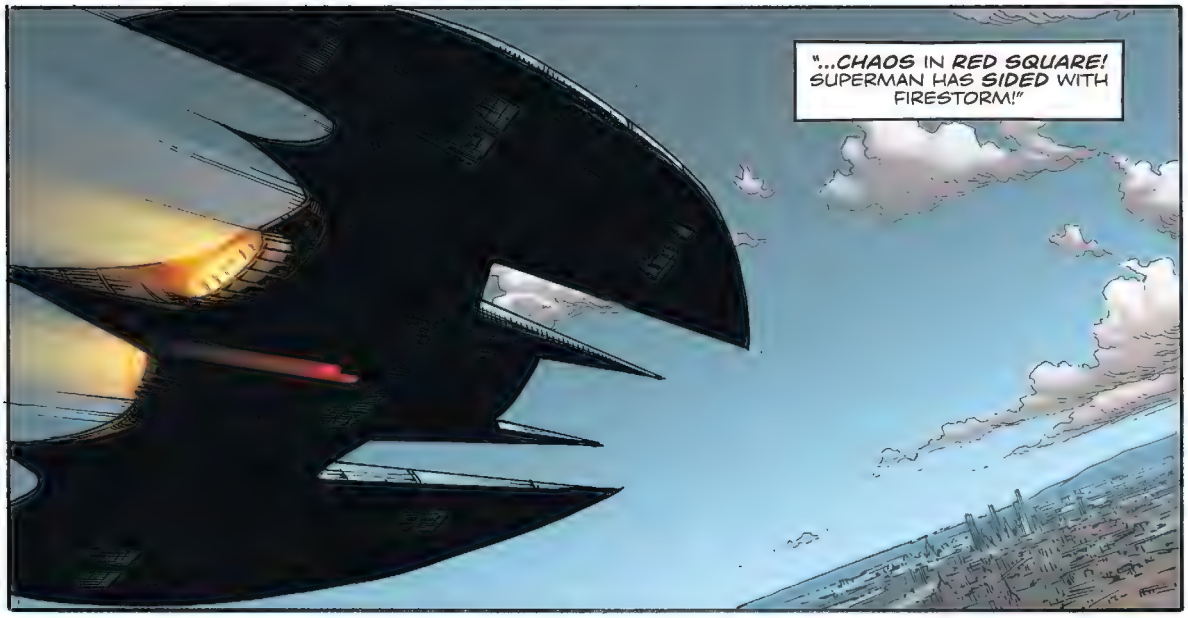
HOW DARE YOU COME BACK HERE!
WAIT, I CAN SAVE THEM!
"LIAR!"
THIS WAY, MR. PRESIDENT.
I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU! I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
I CAN MAKE THIS RIGHT!
PLEASE...
"I CAN TURN THEM BACK TO FLESH AND BLOOD."
NO!
NO!

...APPEARS TO BE ATTACKING THE RUSSIAN MILITARY...

MY GOD! CLARK?!

DAMMIT.

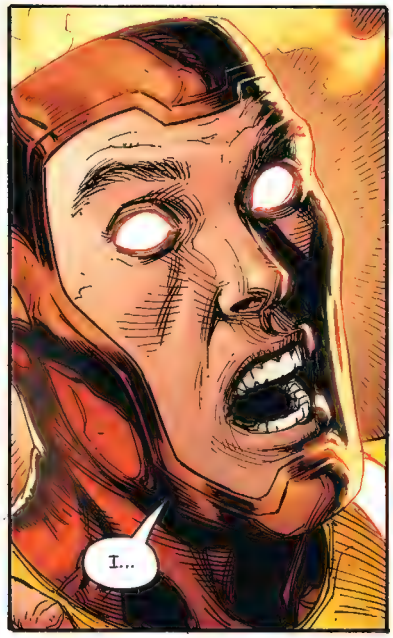
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I CAN STILL HELP THEM ALL!
NO! I'M NOT LEAVING, PROFESSOR!
WE HAVE TO HELP THESE PEOPLE!
"WE CAN STOP THIS!
IF I PICK ONE! IF I CHANGE ONE BACK AND SHOW THEM, I...
...OH NO.
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!
NO, I CAN'T... I CAN'T FIX THIS ONE.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START... HOW...
WHY WOULDN'T YOU LISTEN?!
AAAAAA!!!
AAAARRRR!
FIRESTORM!

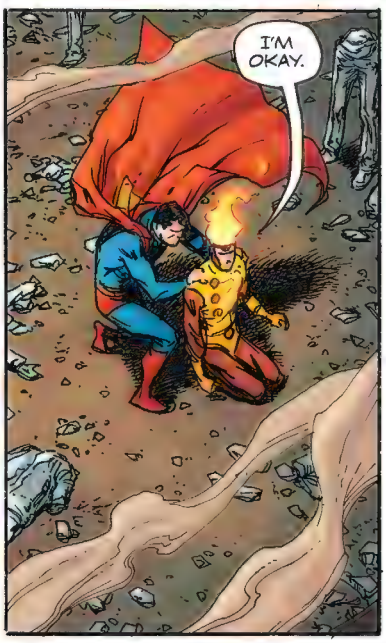

"...CHAOS IN RED SQUARE! SUPERMAN HAS SIDED WITH FIRESTORM!"

SUPERMAN, LISTEN TO ME!

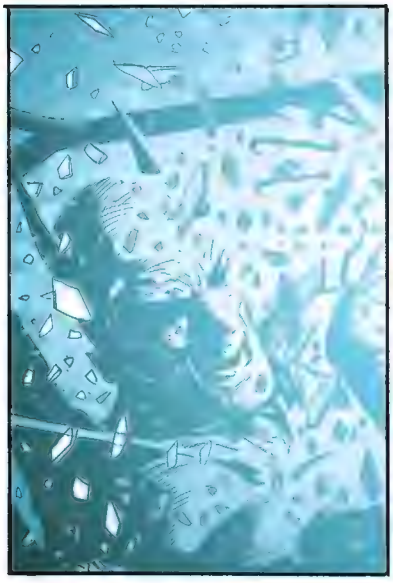
THE ENERGY READINGS ARE SPIKING!

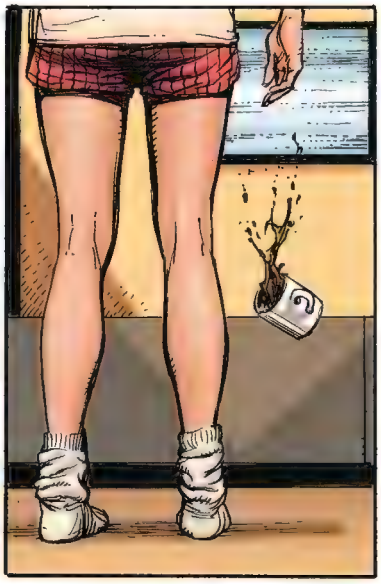
DON'T LOSE CONTROL AGAIN, RONNIE.
SUPERMAN...


I...


I'M OKAY.

IT'S NOT FIRESTORM!





YES.

IT BEGINS.

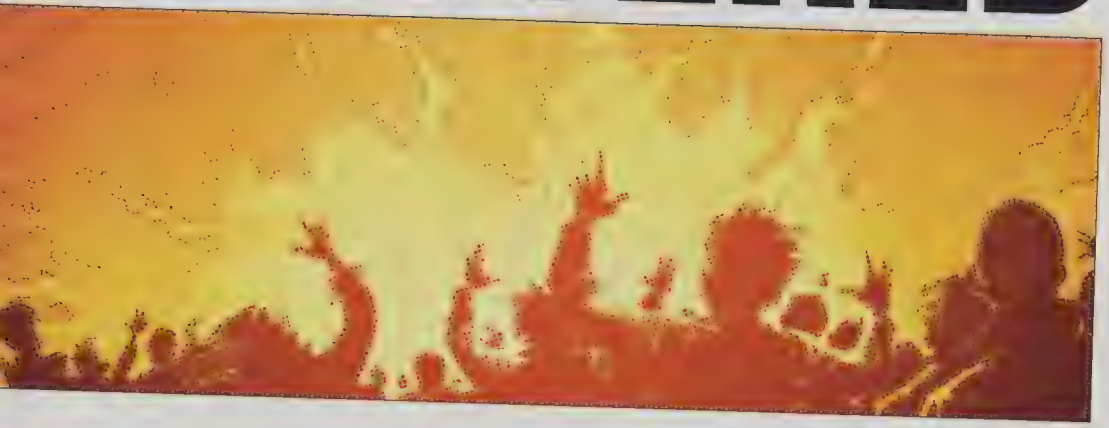
The urge to save humanity is almost always a false front for the urge to rule.
—H.L. Mencken

the daily Star

METRO FINAL

Cloudy, 80/62
Wednesday, June 5, 2019
$1.50

# TRUST SHATTERED

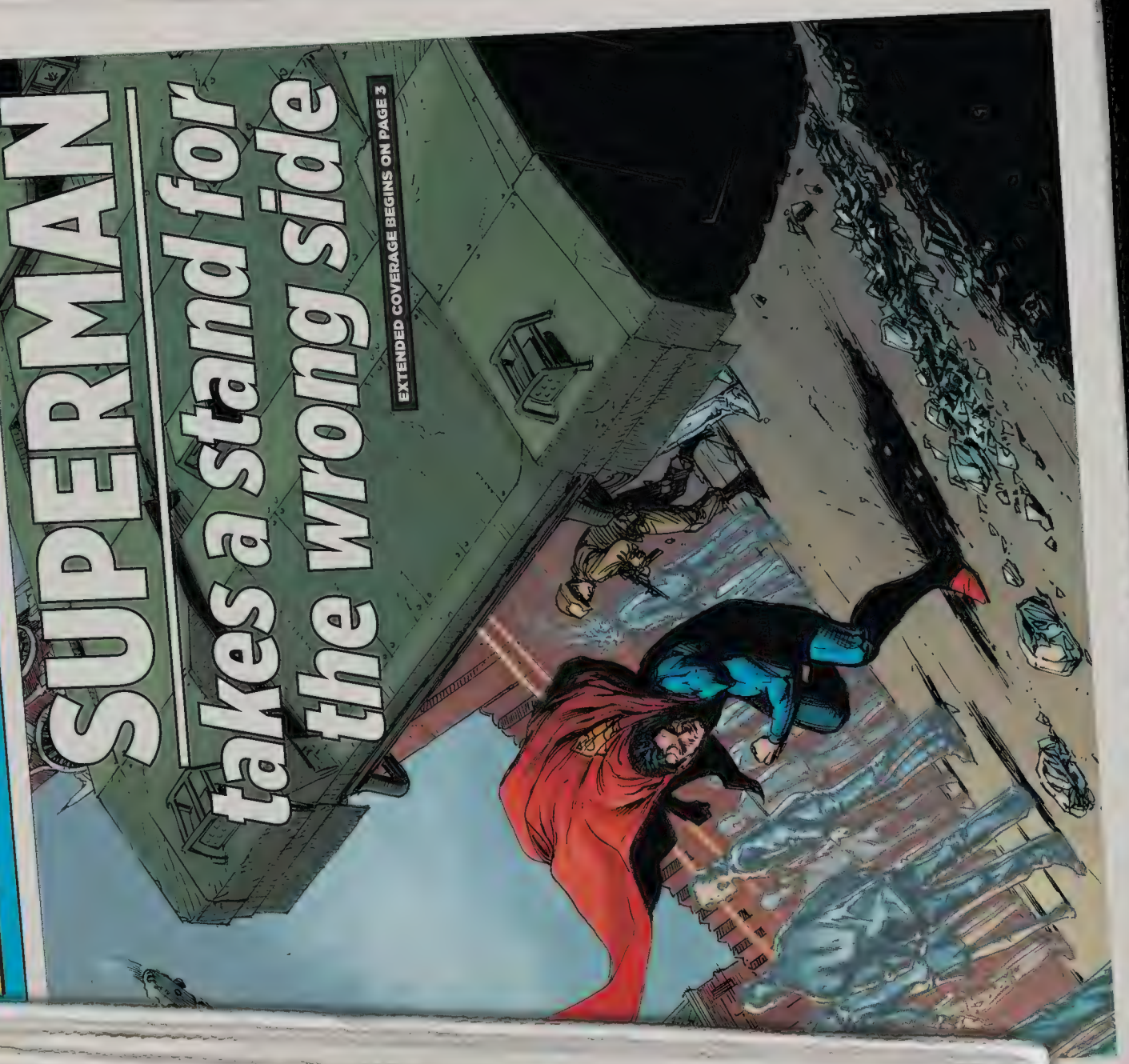


# METROPOLIS TODAY

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019
STILL ONLY 35¢

## SUPERMAN takes a stand for the wrong side

EXTENDED COVERAGE BEGINS ON PAGE 3



*Get breaking news text alerts sent straight to your phone -- see website for details* **$2.25**

All the News We Fit to Print

# Metropolis Times

**Today's Weather**
Overcast with some sun in early evening. High 80, low 62. Tomorrow: drizzle expected in morning. Thunderstorms possible in afternoon.

**JUNE 6, 2019**

# METAHUMAN MOSCOW MASSACRE

# DAILY PLANET

THE VOICE OF METROPOLIS

$1.50

EVENING METRO EDITION

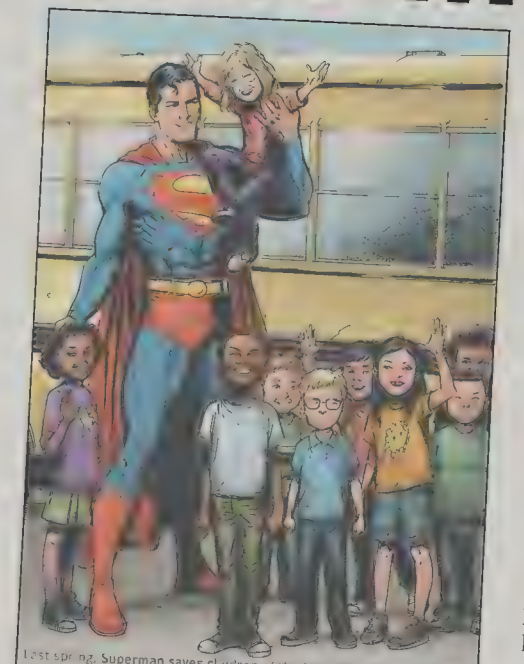
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019


# SUPERMAN MISSING

## The Truth We Don't Know

BY PERRY WHITE

Although it's been confirmed Firestorm is responsible for the deaths of dozens in Moscow after transforming them into glass, the exact source of the detonation that later left hundreds dead and Superman and Firestorm missing has come into question. The obvious assumption was yet another outburst from the rash and seemingly unstable Firestorm. But as the world, in this editor's opinion, unjustly began to blame Superman, suspicions of his own "solar flare" eruptions from the past came into question. Was the Man of Steel, the most trusted metahuman in the world, behind it? Or was it a third party? An unseen force that has been speculated by one of the top physicists in the world, Professor Ray Palmer. Could there be another element behind this tragedy?



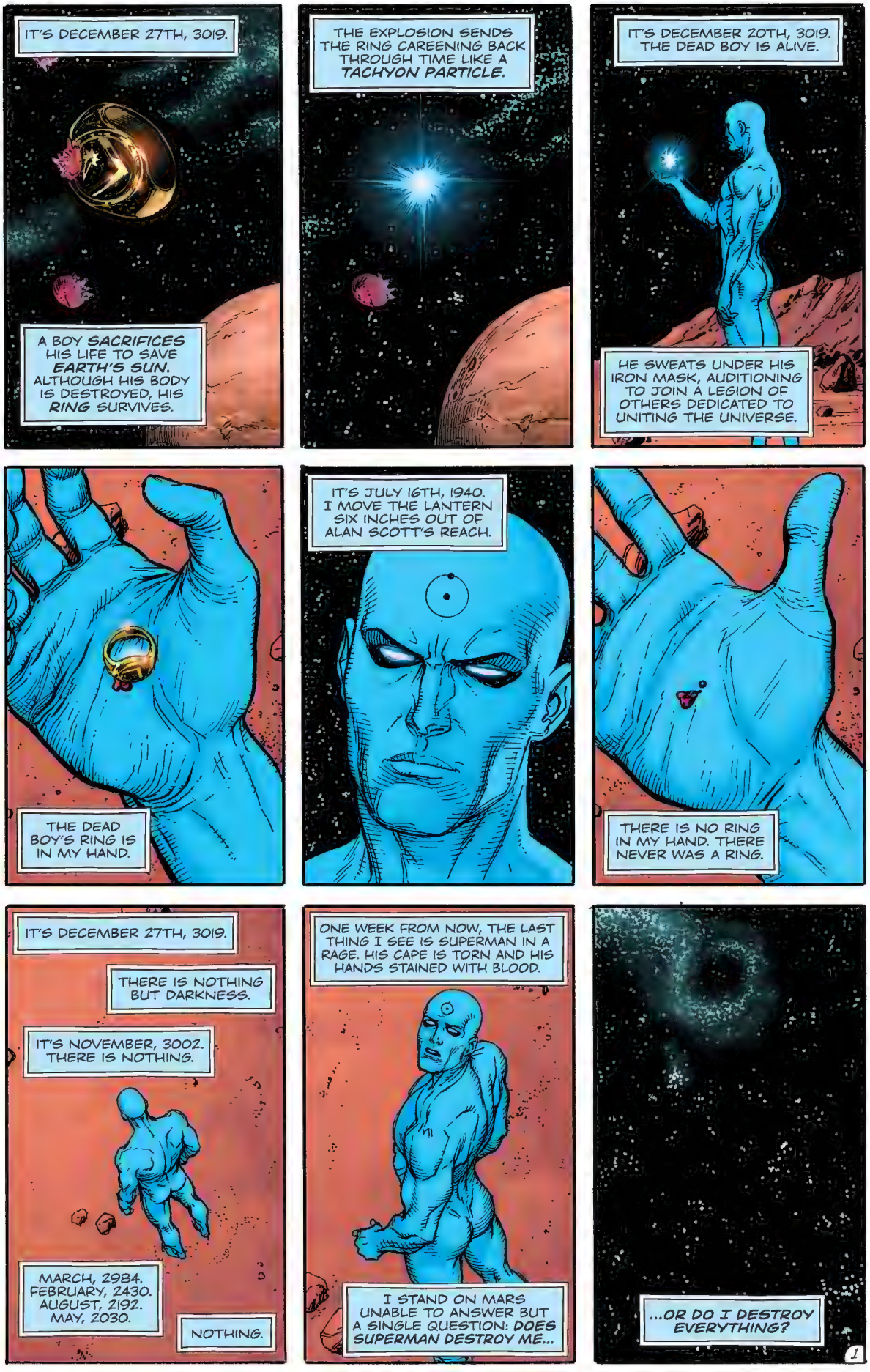
Last spring, Superman saves children of the New Troy School District

## *Who Attacked Who?*

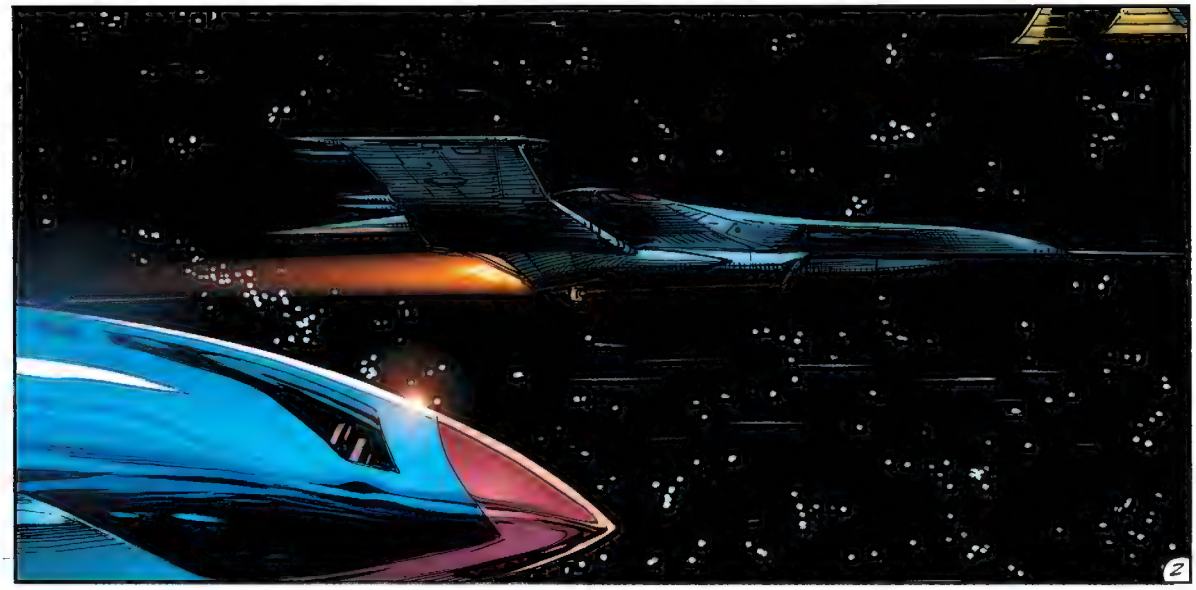
BY RON TROUPE

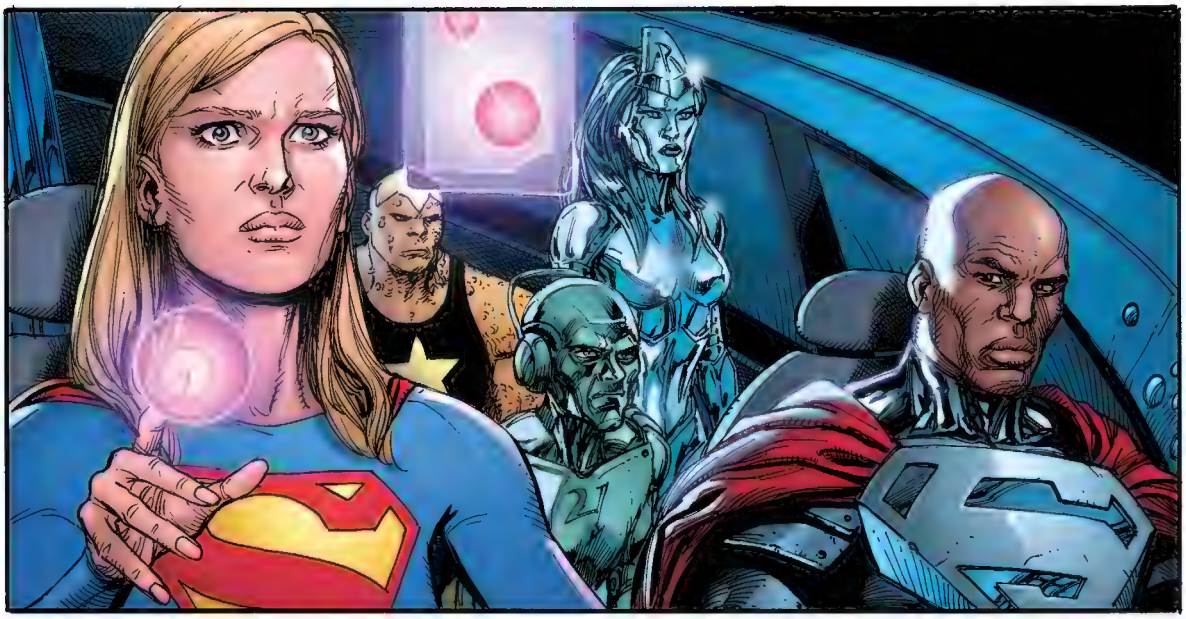
Government leaders from across the world have quickly moved to denounce Superman for his part in the horrible tragedy at Moscow that has left hundreds dead, but the truth is Superman's exact role in this event is still unclear. By all accounts, prior to the outbreak of violence, Superman was addressing the Russian people, and the world, reflecting upon the destruction of his own home planet and how, in many ways, the inability of its leaders to work together to save Krypton mirror our own troubles here on Earth. Despite reports from media outlets claiming Superman was the first to attack the Russian army, analysis of footage from Red Square reveals a young boy in the line of gunfire from Russian soldiers.

Although previous reports, how-

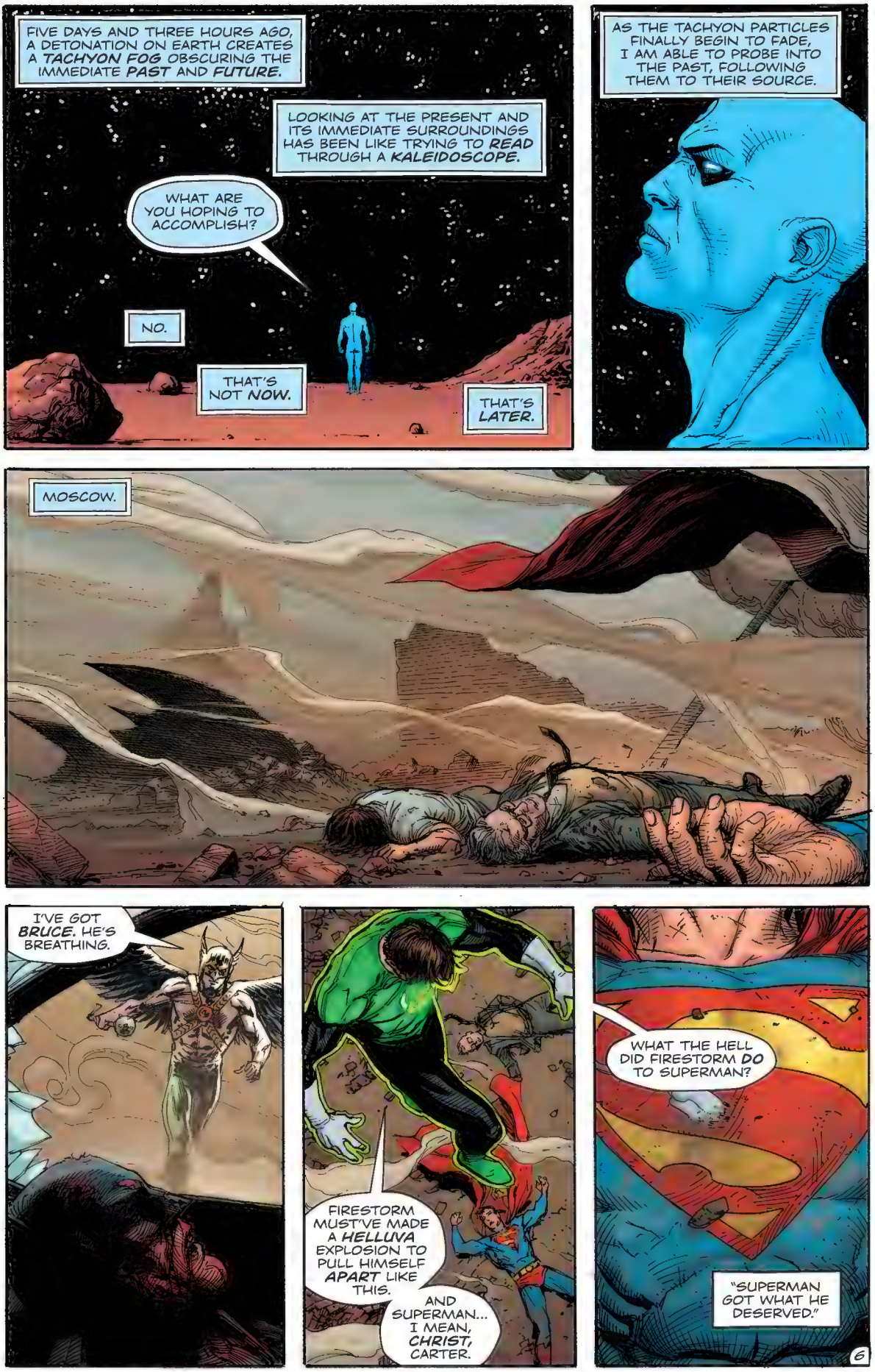

IT'S DECEMBER 27TH, 3019.
A BOY SACRIFICES HIS LIFE TO SAVE EARTH'S SUN. ALTHOUGH HIS BODY IS DESTROYED, HIS RING SURVIVES.
THE EXPLOSION SENDS THE RING CAREENING BACK THROUGH TIME LIKE A TACHYON PARTICLE.
IT'S DECEMBER 20TH, 3019. THE DEAD BOY IS ALIVE.
HE SWEATS UNDER HIS IRON MASK, AUDITIONING TO JOIN A LEGION OF OTHERS DEDICATED TO UNITING THE UNIVERSE.
THE DEAD BOY'S RING IS IN MY HAND.
IT'S JULY 16TH, 1940. I MOVE THE LANTERN SIX INCHES OUT OF ALAN SCOTT'S REACH.
THERE IS NO RING IN MY HAND. THERE NEVER WAS A RING.
IT'S DECEMBER 27TH, 3019.
THERE IS NOTHING BUT DARKNESS.
IT'S NOVEMBER, 3002. THERE IS NOTHING.
MARCH, 2984. FEBRUARY, 2430. AUGUST, 2192. MAY, 2030.
NOTHING.
ONE WEEK FROM NOW, THE LAST THING I SEE IS SUPERMAN IN A RAGE. HIS CAPE IS TORN AND HIS HANDS STAINED WITH BLOOD.
I STAND ON MARS UNABLE TO ANSWER BUT A SINGLE QUESTION: DOES SUPERMAN DESTROY ME...
...OR DO I DESTROY EVERYTHING?
1

# CRISIS

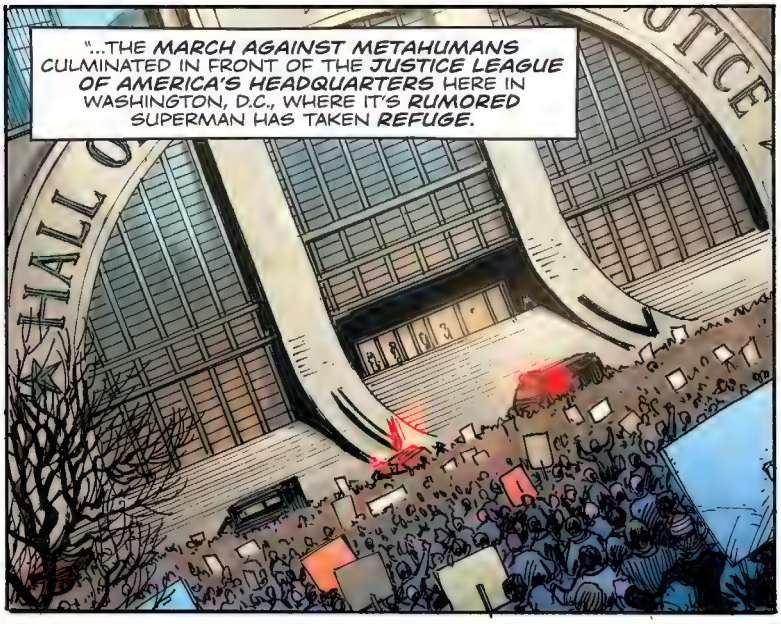


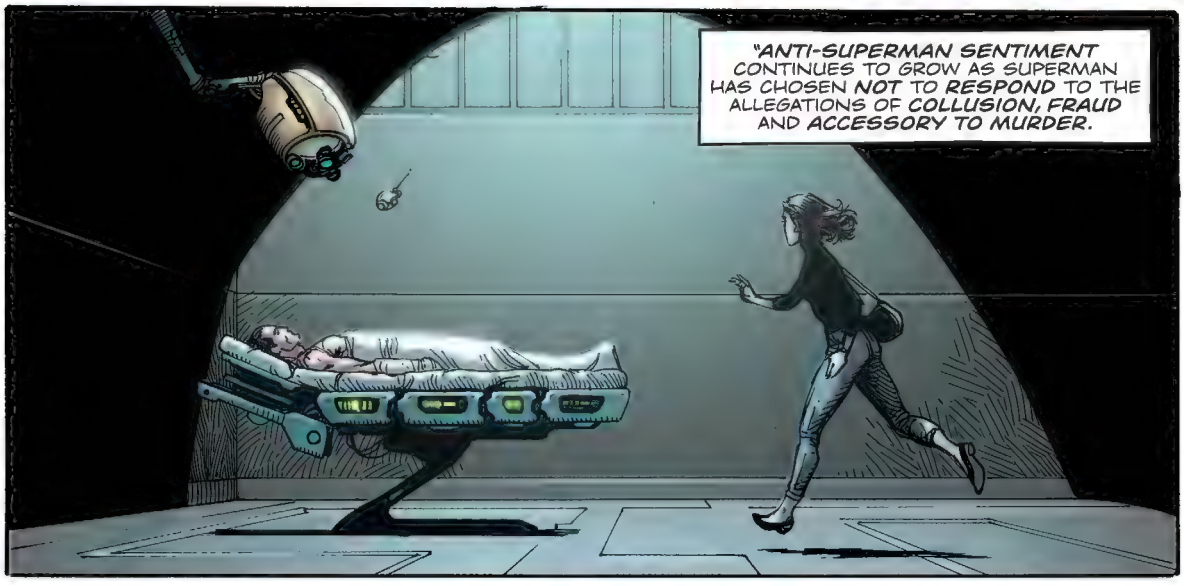


HOW MUCH LONGER?
GOOD QUESTION.

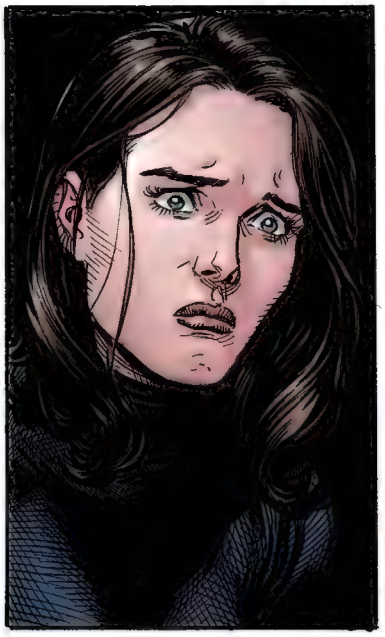

FIVE DAYS AND THREE HOURS AGO, A DETONATION ON EARTH CREATES A TACHYON FOG OBSCURING THE IMMEDIATE PAST AND FUTURE.
LOOKING AT THE PRESENT AND ITS IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS HAS BEEN LIKE TRYING TO READ THROUGH A KALEIDOSCOPE.
WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH?
NO.
THAT'S NOT NOW.
THAT'S LATER.
AS THE TACHYON PARTICLES FINALLY BEGIN TO FADE, I AM ABLE TO PROBE INTO THE PAST, FOLLOWING THEM TO THEIR SOURCE.
MOSCOW.
I'VE GOT BRUCE. HE'S BREATHING.
FIRESTORM MUST'VE MADE A HELLUVA EXPLOSION TO PULL HIMSELF APART LIKE THIS.
AND SUPERMAN... I MEAN, CHRIST, CARTER.
WHAT THE HELL DID FIRESTORM DO TO SUPERMAN?
"SUPERMAN GOT WHAT HE DESERVED."
6

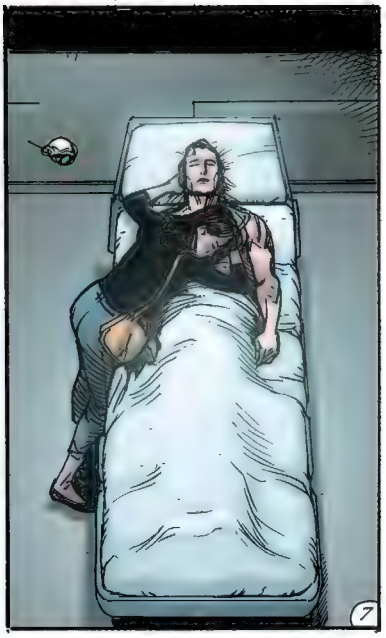
HE STOOD THERE AND PROTECTED FIRESTORM.
HE SHOWED US WHOSE SIDE HE WAS ON AND IT'S NOT OURS.


"...THE MARCH AGAINST METAHUMANS CULMINATED IN FRONT OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA'S HEADQUARTERS HERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WHERE IT'S RUMORED SUPERMAN HAS TAKEN REFUGE.


"ANTI-SUPERMAN SENTIMENT CONTINUES TO GROW AS SUPERMAN HAS CHOSEN NOT TO RESPOND TO THE ALLEGATIONS OF COLLUSION, FRAUD AND ACCESSORY TO MURDER.

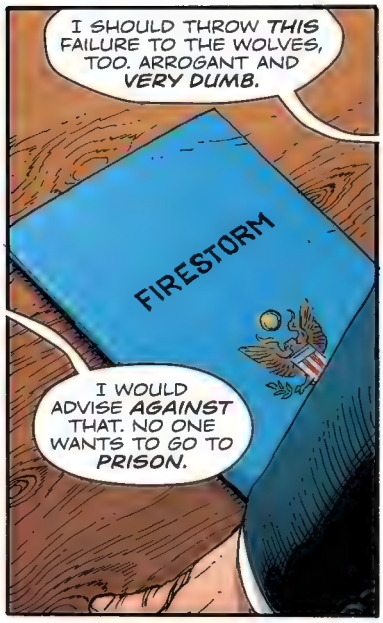
"WE CAN ONLY GUESS AS TO WHY SUPERMAN REFUSES TO TALK TO THE PRESS."





"YOU CAN'T WAIT TO ADDRESS THIS ANY LONGER, MR. PRESIDENT.

YOU HAVE GOT TO GET OUT THERE AND CONDEMN SUPERMAN'S ACTIONS.
CONDEMN THEM? I'LL BE GIVING UP THE BIGGEST DETERRENT TO FOREIGN ATTACK I'VE GOT.
IT'S A HUGE THING, WHAT YOU'RE ASKING. HUGE.
HE'S A LIABILITY NOW, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU STAND BY SUPERMAN TODAY, YOU LOSE THE WHITE HOUSE TOMORROW.


I SHOULD THROW THIS FAILURE TO THE WOLVES, TOO. ARROGANT AND VERY DUMB.
FIRESTORM
I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST THAT. NO ONE WANTS TO GO TO PRISON.

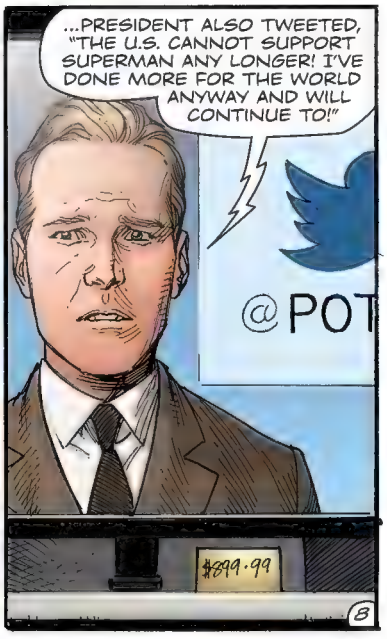
"YOU NEED TO SHOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE YOU'RE THEIR SAVIOR NOW."

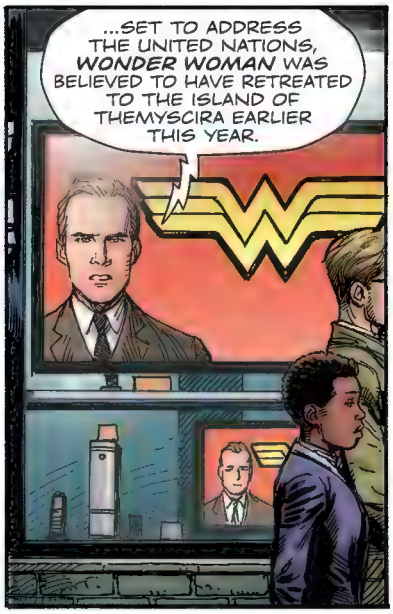
YOU SEE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE

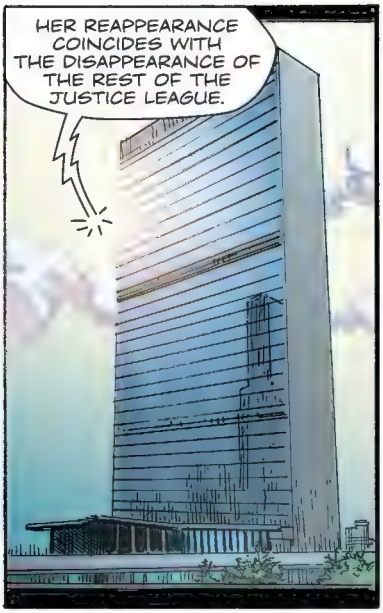
"OUR HEROES CAN NO LONGER WEAR MASKS...

THEY MUST REVEAL THEMSELVES AND THEIR TRUE LOYALTIES TO THE WORLD.
RUSSIA DEMANDS IT.

"...REPORT OF A MASS EXODUS OF AMERICAN METAHUMANS. HUNDREDS WERE SEEN GATHERING AROUND SEVERAL SHIPS OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON, D.C., LAST NIGHT..."


...PRESIDENT ALSO TWEETED, "THE U.S. CANNOT SUPPORT SUPERMAN ANY LONGER! I'VE DONE MORE FOR THE WORLD ANYWAY AND WILL CONTINUE TO!"
@POT
$899.99
8

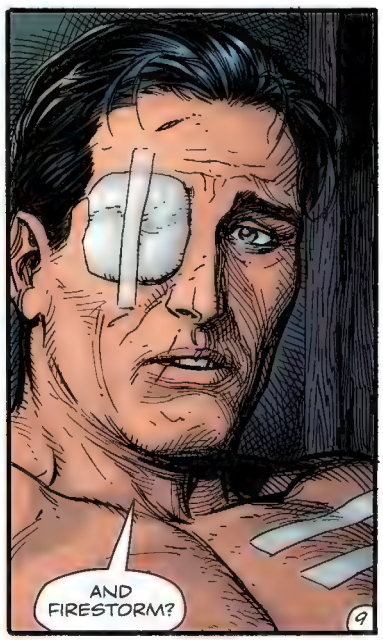

...SET TO ADDRESS THE UNITED NATIONS, WONDER WOMAN WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE RETREATED TO THE ISLAND OF THEMYSCIRA EARLIER THIS YEAR.


HER REAPPEARANCE COINCIDES WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE REST OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

HHN...

MASTER WAYNE?
ALFRED?
RRN.
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE'S CLARK?

HE'S RECOVERING, SECURED WITHIN THE HALL OF JUSTICE.
HE'S SAFE.


AND FIRESTORM?
9

AHH...
PROFESSOR? YOU GET THE NUMBER OF THE TRUCK THAT HIT US?
IT WASN'T A TRUCK, RONALD. A DETONATION OF SOME KIND.
ONE MADE TO APPEAR AS THOUGH WE WERE THE SOURCE OF IT.
SO, FRAMED AGAIN? FIRST POZHAR SPREADS LIES ABOUT US BEING CONNECTED TO THE SUPERMEN THEORY AND NOW THIS?
WHERE ARE WE ANYWAY?
LOOKS LIKE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS MAYBE.
UH...
OR NOT.
10

WHY WOULD THEY ALL LEAVE THE PLANET?

...YEAH, YOU CAN QUOTE ME. NONE OF YOU BARKING PUNDITS ARE WORTH SUPERMAN'S PISS!
HELL, YOU AREN'T WORTH MINE!

...THE LEAGUE SENT THE VERY BEST TO ANALYZE AND CONTAIN ANY ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE FROM FIRESTORM'S DETONATION.
THE GREEN LANTERNS, THE ATOM... EVEN JOHN CONSTANTINE VOLUNTEERED.
AND THEY DISCOVERED IT WASN'T FIRESTORM WHO CAUSED THE EXPLOSION.

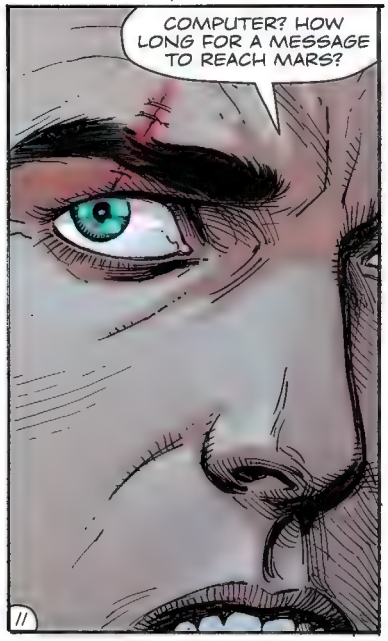
IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE. SOMEONE THEY BELIEVE WAS TRYING TO KILL SUPERMAN.

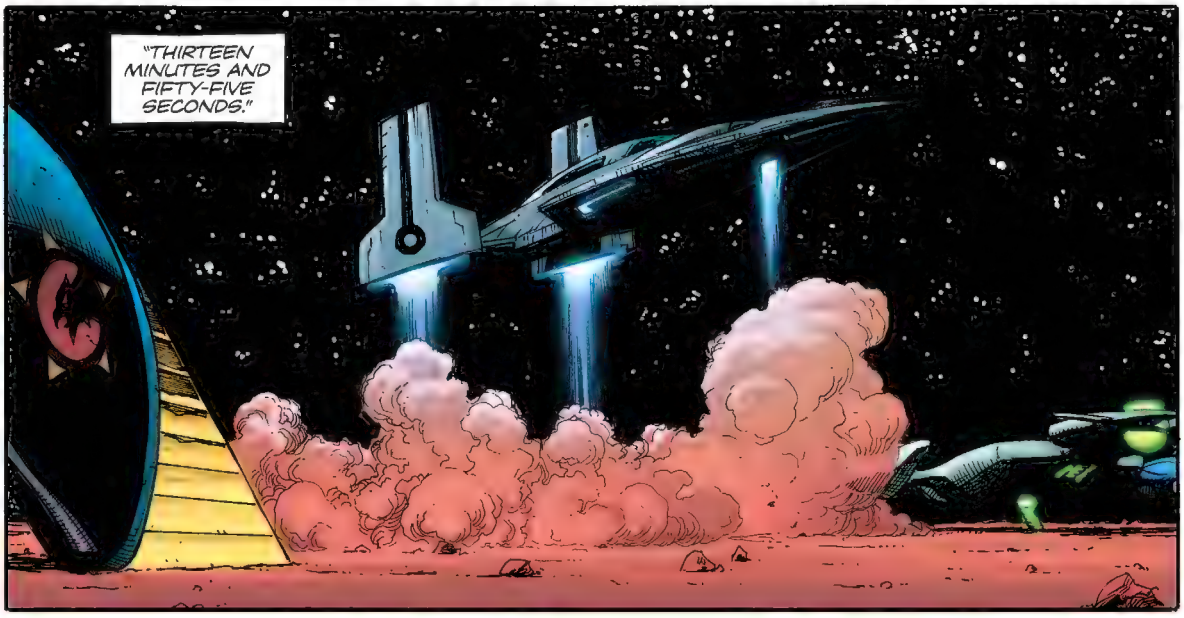
"IT WAS AN ENERGY THEY'D NEVER ENCOUNTERED.
"AND THEY TRACED IT TO MARS."

THEY'RE BEING PLAYED.
PLAYED? EXCUSE ME, SIR? I BELIEVE YOUR LAST WORDS TO SUPERMAN BEFORE THE EXPLOSION WERE, "IT ISN'T FIRESTORM."

FIRESTORM WASN'T BEHIND THE EXPLOSION, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THE MAN THEY'RE GOING AFTER WAS EITHER.
I SHOULD'VE LISTENED.

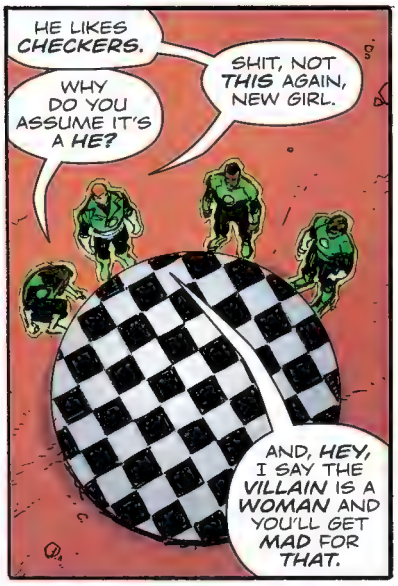
I DIDN'T SEE IT.

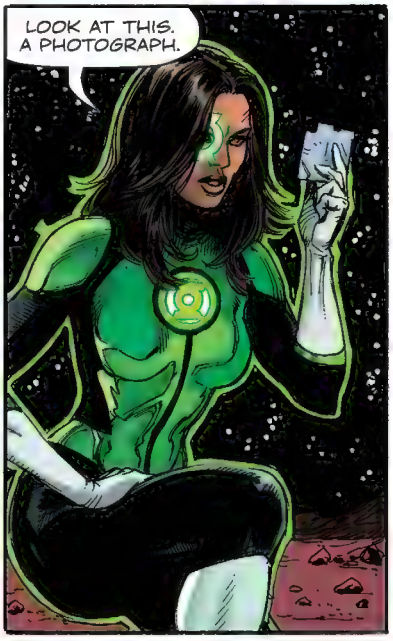

COMPUTER? HOW LONG FOR A MESSAGE TO REACH MARS?


"THIRTEEN MINUTES AND FIFTY-FIVE SECONDS."

WOULD'VE BEEN FASTER IF WE CAME OURSELVES INSTEAD OF DRAGGIN' ALL THESE FOLKS WITH US.
WE DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST, GUY.

WELL, WE KNOW ONE THING ABOUT 'EM BESIDES HIS NOT BEIN' A FAN OF SUPERMAN.
WHAT'S THAT?


HE LIKES CHECKERS.
WHY DO YOU ASSUME IT'S A HE?
SHIT, NOT THIS AGAIN, NEW GIRL.
AND, HEY, I SAY THE VILLAIN IS A WOMAN AND YOU'LL GET MAD FOR THAT.


LOOK AT THIS. A PHOTOGRAPH.

WHO'S THAT?

EVERYONE, OUR RINGS HAVE LOCATED A STRUCTURE OF SOME KIND UP AHEAD.
HIS BASE, IF ANYTHING.
OR HERS.
CRAM IT, GARDNER.

YOU BROUGHT US ALONG WITHOUT *CONSENT,* TORNADO.
PROFESSOR, PLEASE UNDERSTAND...

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY *FINE,* LORRAINE.
WE'VE ESSENTIALLY BEEN *SHANGHAIED* BY THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...

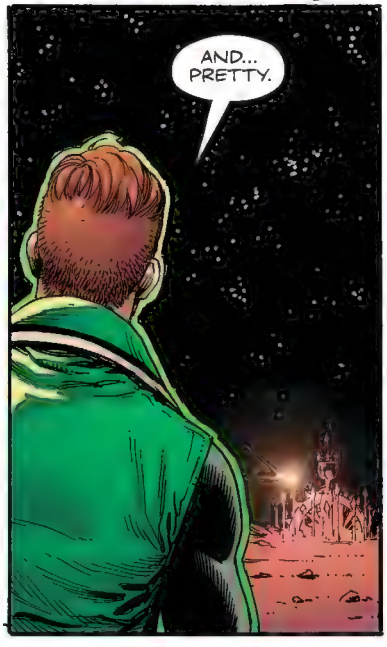
RONNIE, SOMEONE SET YOU UP. AND THAT SOMEONE PUT SUPERMAN IN A *COMA.*
AND THAT SOMEONE IS ON *MARS?*

THE RING ISN'T PICKING UP ANY FINGERPRINTS, BUT ITS *ENERGY SOURCE* MATCHES THE EXPLOSION IN MOSCOW.

*MESSAGE WILL BE RECEIVED IN TWELVE MINUTES AND FOUR SECONDS.*

KINDA CREEPY, ISN'T IT?

"IT'S SO STILL."


AND... PRETTY.

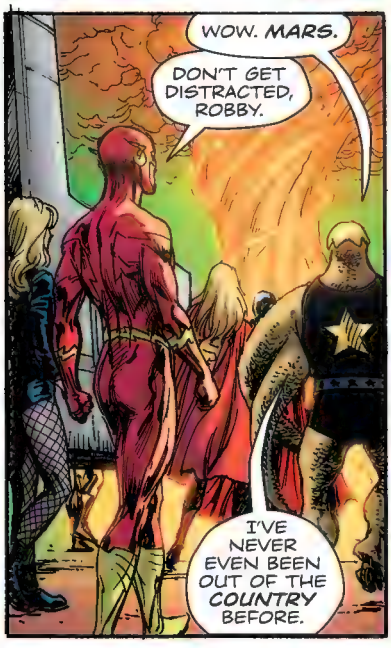
HELLO, LOIS.

DID YOU GET THE DRIVE I SENT YOU?
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT IN HERE, LEX, BUT IF YOU'VE COME TO TRY AND FINISH SUPERMAN OFF...
...IT'LL BE OVER MY DEAD BODY.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HARMING SUPERMAN AT THE MOMENT, LOIS.
"I DON'T BELIEVE THIS."
WE SHOULD BE FLYING HOME TO TURN OURSELVES IN FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN MOSCOW, RONALD...
...NOT MARCHING ACROSS MARS TO FIGHT SOME BATTLE.
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE BELIEVES WHATEVER HAPPENED IN RUSSIA, INCLUDING THE CIVILIAN DEATHS, MAY NOT HAVE BEEN YOUR FAULT, PROFESSOR STEIN.
IN FACT, WE THINK THE VILLAIN WE'RE TRACKING WAS BEHIND IT ALL IN AN EFFORT TO DISCREDIT SUPERMAN.
AND US. WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
RONALD, DON'T...
"I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR.
"BUT THEY NEED FIRESTORM!"
14

THE PLANET'S SEALED. READY FOR...
WILL YOU STOP IT, PROFESSOR?

I AM DEMANDING YOU REMOVE US FROM THIS, RONALD.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
I WON'T HELP YOU!

I DON'T NEED YOUR ADVICE TO CREATE BREATHABLE AIR, PROFESSOR.
EVEN I KNOW THAT ONE.


WOW. MARS.
DON'T GET DISTRACTED, ROBBY.
I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE.

MESSAGE WILL BE RECEIVED IN ELEVEN MINUTES AND FIVE SECONDS.

...THE SUPERMEN THEORY ISN'T A CONSPIRACY. IT'S FACT.
NO ONE EVER DOES.
NO ONE WANTS TO HEAR IT RIGHT NOW, QUESTION.

THE TACHYONS ARE STILL CLOUDING MY PERCEPTION.
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS UNCLEAR.
BUT I SEE HOW THIS ENDS.
IS THERE A PLAN, J'ONN?
WE MAKE INITIAL CONTACT, RALPH. WE SEE WHAT HE WANTS.
HELLO. MY NAME IS J'ONN J'ONZZ.
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON MARS?
GROSS. THE DUDE'S NAKED. HE'S HANGIN' IN THE WIND.
THAT'S ENOUGH, FREDDY.
DARLA, COVER YOUR EYES.
THEY'RE PROTESTING A POWER THEY FEAR.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
EXCUSE ME, I WAS TALKING TO RONALD RAYMOND SIX MINUTES FROM NOW.
THE TACHYONS ARE MUDDLING THINGS UP...
YOU'RE HERE LOOKING FOR ANSWERS YOU DON'T KNOW THE QUESTIONS TO.
SHOCKER.
THE GUY'S A LUNATIC.
16

HEY, BLUE MAN GROUP! BEFORE YOU LAUNCH INTO WHY YOU'RE MESSIN' WITH SUPERMAN, LEMME TELL YOU ABOUT HIS FRIENDS!
WE'RE THE BIGGEST GROUP OF BADASSES THIS SIDE OF THE MILKY WAY.
WE'VE MADE THE RULER OF APOKOLIPS LICK THE SHIT OFF OUR BOOTS.
SHOVED A UNIVERSE-EATER BACK INTO THE SEWER HE CRAWLED OUT OF.
WE'VE BEATEN ARMIES OF EVIL RING SLINGERS LOOKIN' TO ENSLAVE US, BURNED UP BATMEN FROM ALTERNATE REALITIES TRYIN' TO TORTURE US AND SPANKED SUPER-BRATS OUT TO DESTROY US.
GUY, THAT'S ENOUGH.
FROM YOUR MIND, I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE CONFUSED.
ONLY FOR THE MOMENT.
IN FIVE SECONDS, YOU WILL BROADCAST TO EVERYONE THE THOUGHT YOU READ MOST CLEARLY.
MY FINAL VISION OF SUPERMAN.

YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO DESTROY YOU SO YOU'RE OUT TO DESTROY HIM FIRST?
AND ALL OF US WITH HIM.
YOU ALL SAW WHAT J'ONN DID, RIGHT? THIS FREAK THINKS IT'S THE END OF THE UNIVERSE!
SHIT, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME!
TALK IS OVER. LET'S PUT SOME UNDERWEAR ON THIS GUY!
AAAAHHHH!
WAIT. IS THAT IT?
CHRIST, I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HIM OUTRIGHT, BUT HE HAD IT COMIN'...
HEY.
WHERE'D HE GO?
18

THAT RING...
I'M CURIOUS.
WHAT'S INSIDE IT?
BUH-BACK AW-OFF!
AAAAEEYYY!
I MUST ADMIT, NOT KNOWING WHAT IS AND WAS AND WILL BE...
IT'S ENJOYABLE.
AND THIS ENERGY, EMOTION COALESCED AND MANUFACTURED INTO A POWER BY THE RING.
I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO AFFECT.

IF HE AIN'T SUSSED THE POWER RINGS, HE'S GON'AVE A FOOKEN HARD TIME WI' WHAT WE'VE GOT.
ZEE!
MY TURN TO PLAY FIRST!
HELLFIRE BURNS WORST!
EZEERF!
YOU ALL BELIEVE YOU'RE WIELDING MAGIC.
Y'GOT THAT RIGHT.
I MUST PERFORM A DEEPER ANALYSIS, BUT I SEE THIS POWER YOU HARNESS IS IN REALITY THE SCRAPS OF CREATION.
LIKE THE RANDOM ERRORS IN COMPUTER CODE, DISCARDED AND FORGOTTEN...
...LEFT TO BE PICKED UP AND USED BY THOSE WHO ALSO FIND THEMSELVES DISCARDED AND FORGOTTEN.
"MAGIC"...

IT FEELS GOOD TO STILL LEARN.
"I'VE COME IN PEACE..."

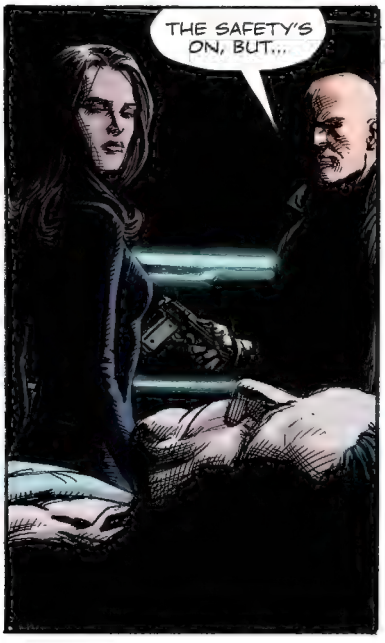
...TO WORK TOGETHER.
YOU'VE DEDICATED YOUR LIFE TO DESTROYING SUPERMAN, LEX. BUT TODAY, NOW, WHILE THE WORLD TURNS AGAINST HIM AND HE LIES IN A COMA... YOU'VE COME TO HELP HIM?
THAT MAY BE AN OVERSTATEMENT. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, LOIS.
WITH THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE.

WHY WOULD I BELIEVE A THING YOU SAY?

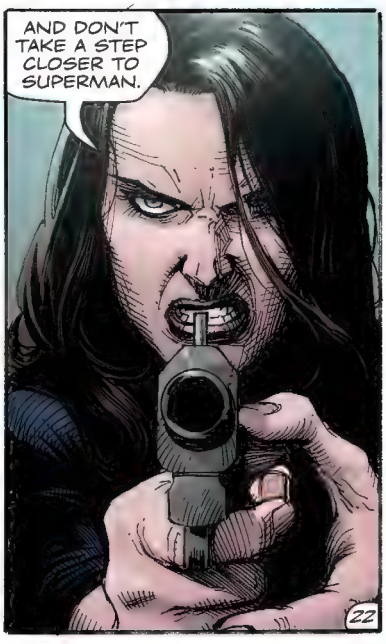
OH, LOIS, IT'S TRUE, I'LL ADMIT. I'M ECSTATIC TO SEE SUPERMAN TAKEN DOWN A PEG OR TWO.
AND I UNDERSTAND YOUR CAUTION WHEN IT COMES TO ME.

BUT PLEASE HEAR ME OUT.

TAKE IT, IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.


THE SAFETY'S ON, BUT...

I KNOW HOW TO TAKE IT OFF.
BEAUTIFUL AND STRONG.
SAVE THE COMPLIMENTS.

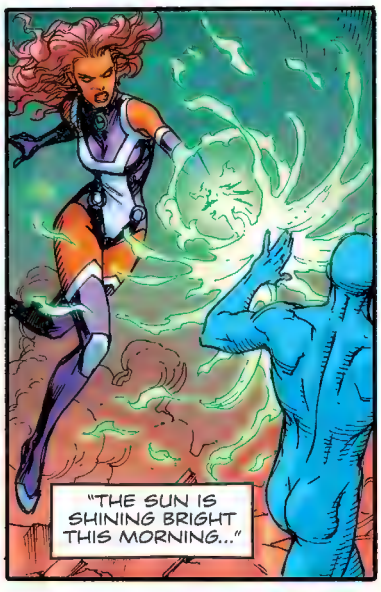

AND DON'T TAKE A STEP CLOSER TO SUPERMAN.

I WAS THE ONE WHO SENT YOU THE FOOTAGE. OF THOSE HEROES THAT NEVER WERE.
IT'S PROOF, LOIS.
PROOF OF WHAT, LEX?

"THAT THERE IS A FORCE OUT THERE UNDERMINING NOT ONLY SUPERMAN, BUT ALL OF CREATION.

MY EVIDENCE POINTS TO ONE OF HIS VICTIMS.
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF WALLY WEST?

SIR, I TRUST YOU AREN'T THINKING OF GOING TO MARS.


"THE SUN IS SHINING BRIGHT THIS MORNING..."

...AS THE UNITED NATIONS GATHER TOGETHER TO HEAR OUT WONDER WOMAN...
...WHO IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF PEACE IN HOPES OF DEFUSING THE ESCALATING METAHUMAN ARMS RACE.

WE CAN'T HOLD BACK, PROFESSOR.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO WE'RE DEALING WITH.

NO, RONALD.

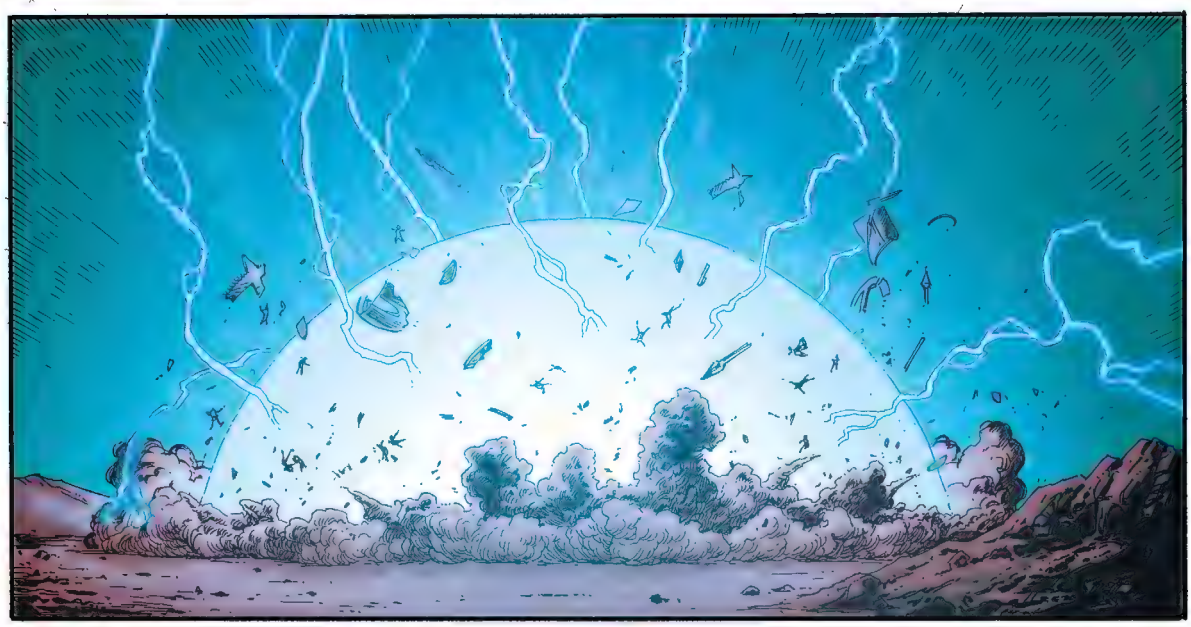
YOU DON'T.

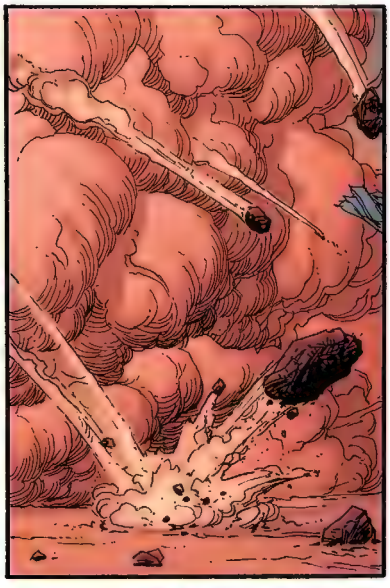
WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED? PROFESSOR?
WHERE ARE WE?
YOU ARE SEVEN YEARS, FORTY-SIX DAYS, TWENTY MINUTES AND TEN SECONDS AGO.
OUTSIDE...
THEY'RE PROTESTING A POWER THEY FEAR.
"IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS, THIS FACILITY WILL EXPLODE AND YOU AND PROFESSOR MARTIN STEIN WILL BE FUSED INTO A SINGLE ORGANISM.
"ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL METAHUMANS I HAVE ENCOUNTERED ON THIS EARTH.
"AND LAID BARE, ONE OF THE MOST DEADLY."
STOP PLAYING GOD
WHERE IS THE PROFESSOR?
...IT'S ALMOST TIME.

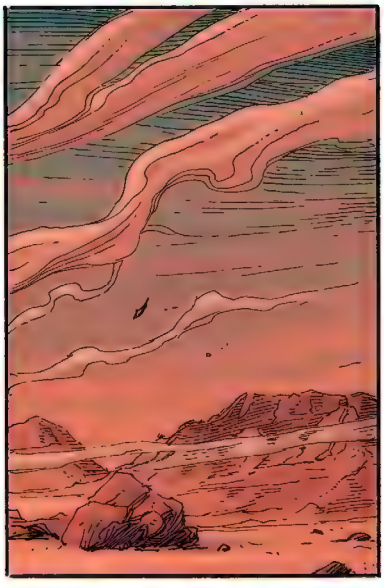
OF COURSE, I REALIZE THE RISKS INVOLVED, BUT...
PROFESSOR?
...YES, AS YOU READ IN MY LATEST REPORT, I BELIEVE THE MORE POWERFUL THE ACCIDENT, THE MORE POWERFUL THE END RESULT...
IF YOU TAKE THE ORIGINS OF THE OTHERS INTO CONSIDERATION AND APPLY THE SAME...
...I KNOW HOW MUCH TROUBLE SOME OF THEM HAVE CAUSED.
THAT'S WHY MY SEARCH FOR THIS ONE WAS EXHAUSTIVE.
HIS MOTHER DIED YEARS AGO AND HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER IS STRAINED.
HE'S IN DESPERATE NEED OF A PARENTAL FIGURE.
YET IN SOME WAYS, HE REMINDS ME OF MY OWN SON.
I'VE GROOMED HIM WELL.
HE AND I SHALL BECOME ONE.
WHAT BETTER WAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE METAHUMANS THAN FROM THE INSIDE?
NO!
THIS IS ALL A LIE!
GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
GET OUT!
25

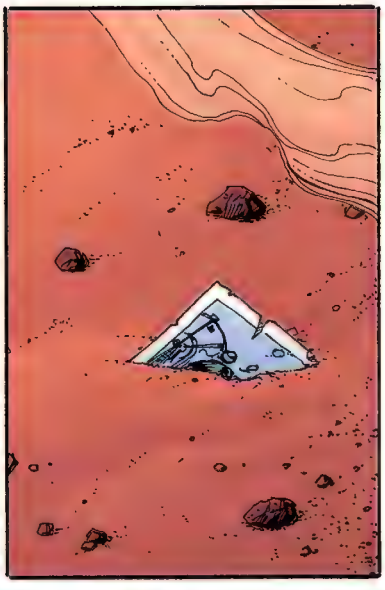
NO!
WHY WOULD YOU SHOW ME THAT? PROFESSOR, WHY WOULD HE...
TO SIMPLY PROVE MY POINT.
EVEN HOPE DECAYS.
AAAARRR!
INTERESTING.
HEY, YOU SEE THAT?!
NOT AS INVULNERABLE AS HE LOOKS.
VERY.
INTERESTING.

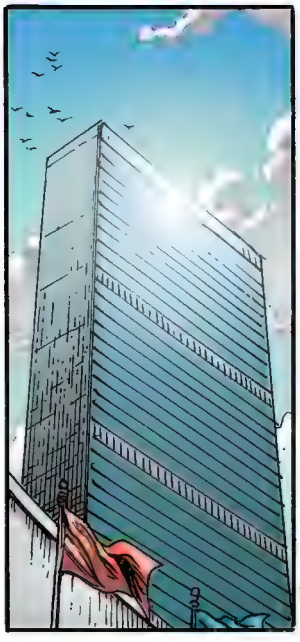
GET BEETLE AND GET CLEAR.
FORGET SUPERMAN!
CAPTAIN ATOM IS THE LAST THING YOU'LL EVER SEE.
27

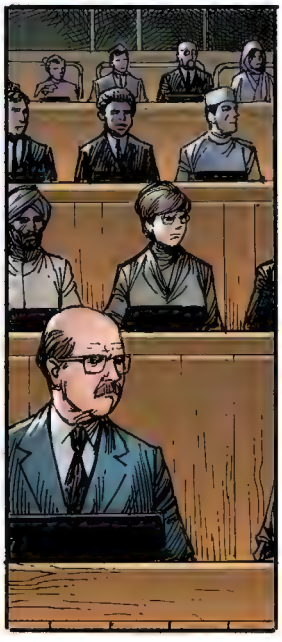


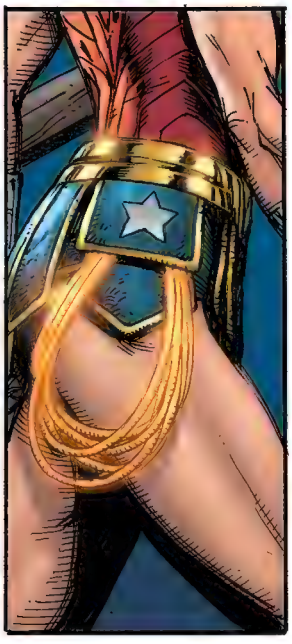


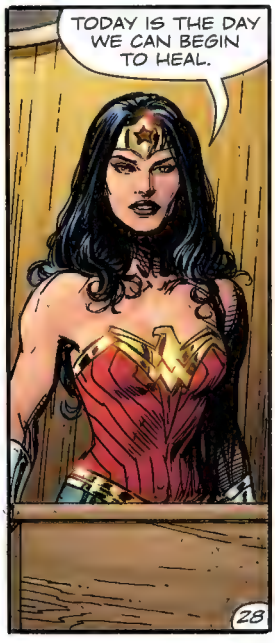











TODAY IS THE DAY WE CAN BEGIN TO HEAL.

OUR WORLD HAS BEEN UNDER ASSAULT BY MISTRUTHS, FEAR AND EXTREMISM.
THERE IS NO SINGULAR VILLAIN BEHIND IT.
"WE'VE ALL PLAYED A ROLE."
MESSAGE FAILED TO SEND.
"EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY, HAL."
YOU ALL RIGHT?
JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE.
HEY! WAY TO GO, RONNIE!
CRACKED THAT EGG RIGHT OPEN!
I DON'T BELIEVE HIM, PROFESSOR, BUT...
GUYS?
AHH...
I... I...
I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING, DIANA.
WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH?

Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for crisis.

—Seneca

# FIRESTORM

# DEPARTMENT OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS

THE PENTAGON • • • WASHINGTON, DC • • • 20201

Mr. Secretary,

I believe my son's death could have been prevented had this Department and its agents existed back in his day. My son is why I created this Department and why I've dedicated my life to it. He is also why I'll risk my life for it.

As you are aware, my studies have determined that approximately one in one-thousand Americans are meta-positive, meaning they carry the metagene. A gene that remains a mystery to us. What we do know is that most meta-positives will live out their lives, never realizing they are carriers. In those rare times that a meta-positive is faced with a life-threatening event, the metagene will attempt to "trigger" and "evolve." In most cases, the meta-positive will not survive. But in a rare few cases, the meta-positive will develop fantastic and amazing abilities, most often in correlation to the event. i.e.: the more powerful the accident, the more powerful the metahuman.

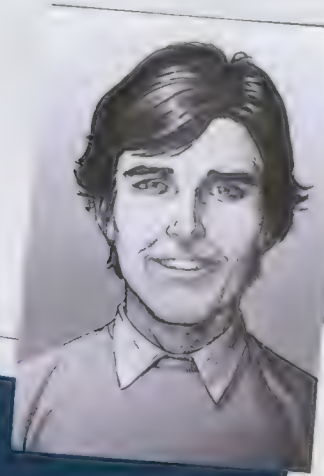
As a meta-negative, my research can only take me so far. Rex Mason, Jack Ryder, Kirk Langstrom and the others we've created and put into place have helped us make great leaps forward in our studies. Still, the metahuman community continues to grow at a rapid pace. Only a fraction of them are truly known to us anymore. Even fewer committed to us. I need to personally infiltrate their deepest groups and learn their darkest secrets so that I can protect this great nation. The best way I can do that is to become one of them. And I believe I've found a way with Project Firestorm.

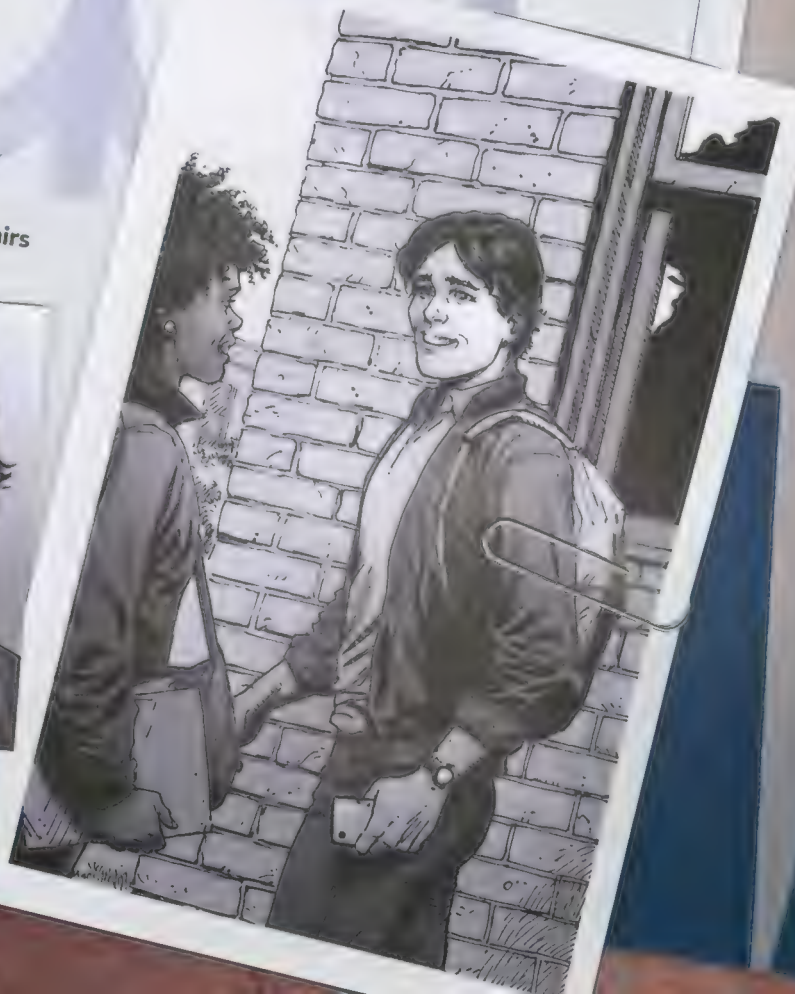
I look forward to discussing more.

With respect,

Martin Stein

**rofessor Martin Stein**
**irector, Department of Metahuman Affairs**





A STRUGGLING CITY PLANNER AND A FAT-CAT BANKER WERE PLAYING A GAME OF CHESS.
TWO MEN FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS.
THEY WERE SHOT AND KILLED BEFORE THEY COULD FINISH THEIR GAME.
I'M SORRY, NATE. THIS ISN'T HOW I WANTED IT TO GO.
MY FRIEND MURRAY WANTED MY HELP SOLVING THE CASE. TO FIND THE KILLER I KNEW I HAD TO ANSWER A SIMPLE QUESTION...
WHO WAS THE TARGET AND WHO WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME?
MERRY CHRISTMAS, NATHANIEL.
I ALWAYS SAW MYSELF AS A KNIGHT OF SORTS. TURNS OUT...
I'VE BEEN THE PAWN.
THE WOMAN STANDING OVER ME WAS THE LOVE OF MY LIFE. JOYCE GULINO. THE WIFE OF MOBSTER JOSEPH COSTILINO.
WHEN COSTILINO LEARNED ABOUT US, HE HAD JOYCE GUNNED DOWN.
I'D BEEN DROWNING IN WHISKEY EVER SINCE.
I'M GUESSING YOU'RE NOT THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST. SO TELL ME, JOYCE...HOW DID YOU DO IT?
AND WHY?
WHY, NATHANIEL?
I NEEDED MY HUSBAND OUT OF MY WAY IF I WAS GOING TO TAKE OVER HIS BUSINESSES.
AND HOW?
I FOUND A TROUBLED MAN HAUNTED BY THE WAR...
...AND I AIMED HIM AT MY HUSBAND.
I KNEW IF JOSEPH HAD ME KILLED, YOU WOULDN'T STOP GOING AFTER HIM UNTIL HE WAS DEAD.
THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME THE WAY YOU DID, NATHANIEL.
DID YOU EVER LOVE ME?
OR WAS IT ALL JUST A GAME TO YOU? WAS IT...ABOUT THE LIES... AND...THE...
LINE?
CUT!
1

IT'S JUNE 8TH, 1954. CARVER COLMAN IS ON THE SET OF THE ADJOURNMENT SHOOTING THE FINAL SCENE.
I SAID MILK AND SUGAR, JOHNNY.
I KNEW I FORGOT SOMETHING!
I WANT THIS MORON OFF MY LOT. PERMANENTLY.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THE LAST TWELVE, CARVER.
I'M SORRY, JACQUES. I'LL GET IT NEXT TAKE.
THIRTEEN.

# ACTION

IT'S NEARLY TWO O'CLOCK AND HE HASN'T MADE IT THROUGH ONE TAKE.
HE TELLS HIS DIRECTOR IT'S A HEADACHE.
IT'S JUNE 1ST, 1954. CARVER COLMAN READS A LETTER THREATENING TO EXPOSE HIS DARKEST SECRET.

IT'S MARCH 19TH, 1952. THE 25TH ACADEMY AWARDS ARE HELD AT THE RKO PANTAGES THEATRE. IT'S THE FIRST CEREMONY TO BE TELEVISED.
...THANK MY DIRECTOR, DON MCGREGOR, AND MY PARENTS IN MERILLVILLE, INDIANA.
THIS IS FOR YOU, MOM AND DAD!

IT'S JUNE 9TH, 1954. CARVER COLMAN'S BODY LIES ON HIS LIVING ROOM FLOOR, BLOOD POOLING AROUND HIS CAVED-IN SKULL.
OH LORD!
IT'S JUNE 13TH, 1954. I AM STANDING AT CARVER COLMAN'S GRAVE.
I FEEL NOTHING.

IT'S A QUARTER PAST TWO ON JUNE 8TH, 1954.
I JUST NEED FIFTEEN MINUTES AND I'LL BE AS RIGHT AS RAIN, JACQUES. THAT'S ALL.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE OUR LAST DAY, BUT WE CAN WRAP THE FILM UP TOMORROW.
NO.

WE HAVE TO FINISH TODAY.

I'M CERTAIN THE MAN'S ON PEP PILLS. ALL THE SIGNS ARE THERE.
GO POWDER YOURSELF, HEDY.

SIX HOURS LATER, FILMING ON THE ADJOURNMENT WRAPS AND CARVER COLMAN DINES WITH THE STUDIO HEADS TO CELEBRATE.
TRADER VIC'S
THIRTY-FIVE MINUTES INTO DINNER, HE LEAVES FOR A BAR.

IT'S TEN O'CLOCK.
CARVER COLMAN IS WAITING FOR HIS BLACKMAILER.

HELLO, MA.

SON.
I ONLY WANT TO PROTECT YOUR LIE.
BUT IT'S GOING TO COST YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS HERE.
3

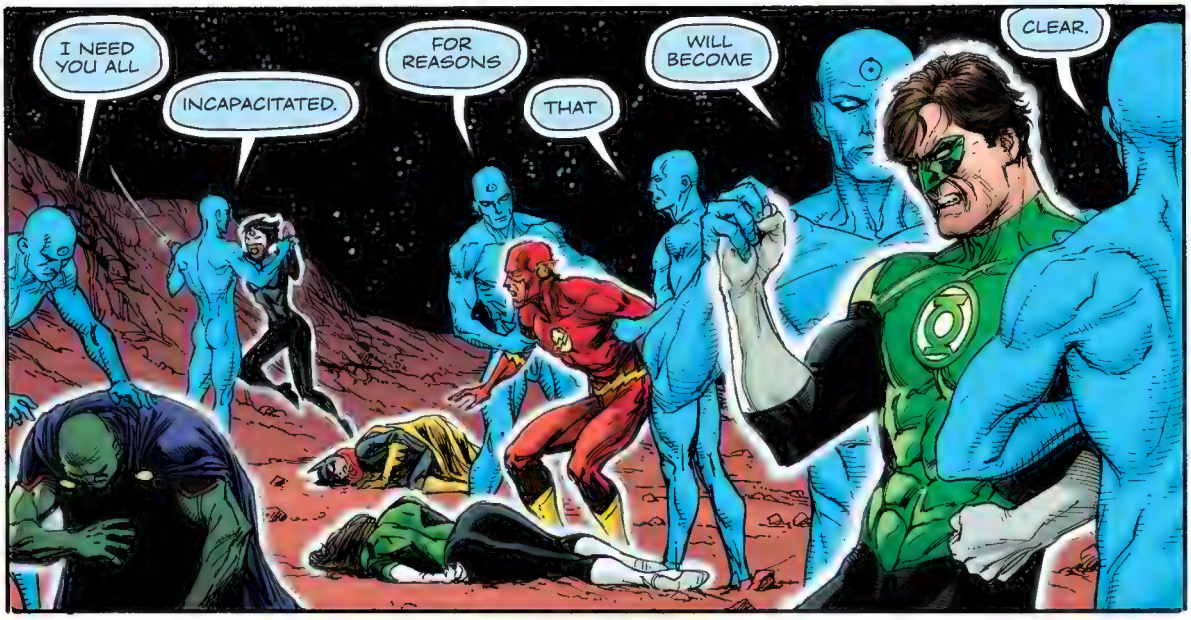
FOUR HOURS AGO.
ACTION!
DID YOU EVER LOVE ME?
OR WAS IT ALL JUST A GAME TO YOU?
WAS IT A LIE EVERY DAY AND EVERY NIGHT?
IF YOU'RE ASKING IF I EVER FELT ANYTHING?
I DID, NATHANIEL.
THAT'S WHY I LEFT THIS PRESENT FOR YOU.
OPEN IT, NATE.
SAY ANOTHER WORD TO ME, MURRAY, AND I'LL SHOVE THAT GUN DOWN YOUR THROAT.
YOU DON'T WANT TO TRY THAT. NOW OPEN THE PRESENT.
YOU SAID IT FELT LIKE WE WERE THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHEN WE WERE ALONE.
I WANTED YOU TO HAVE THAT WORLD.
A WORLD TO REMEMBER.
THANKS!
AAAHH!
WORLDS LIVE. WORLDS DIE.
NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.
4

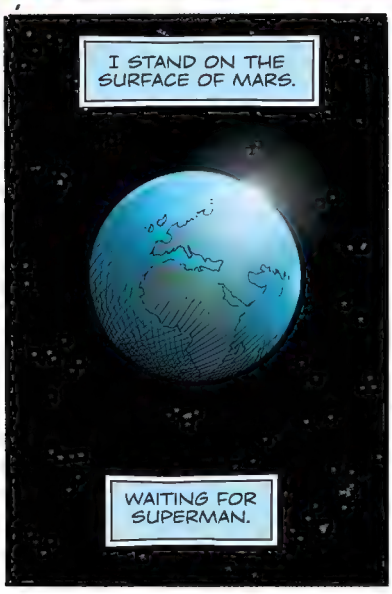
OR DOES IT?
IT'S AUGUST 1959. THE LIGHT IS TAKING ME TO PIECES.
IT'S NOVEMBER 1ST, 1985.
:HHHUUHHHHR:
SOMETIMES THESE THINGS SLIP MY MIND.
IT'S NOW. THE RED DIRT OF MARS IS UNDER MY FEET.
AN ARMY OF SUPERHUMANS SURROUNDS ME.
SUPERMAN'S FRIENDS.
...BUT YES, I UNDERSTAND, WITHOUT CONDONING OR CONDEMNING. HUMAN AFFAIRS CANNOT BE MY CONCERN.
I'M LEAVING THIS GALAXY FOR ONE LESS COMPLICATED.
IT'S NOVEMBER 2ND, 1985.
I ENTER THE MULTIVERSE.
IT'S APRIL 18TH, 1938.
I AM DRAWN TO SUPERMAN'S WORLD FOR REASONS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND IN THE MOMENT.
THE FIRST PERSON I SPEAK TO WILL BE A MAN NAMED CARVER COLMAN.
RAVMAN'S CHINESE
DRUGS

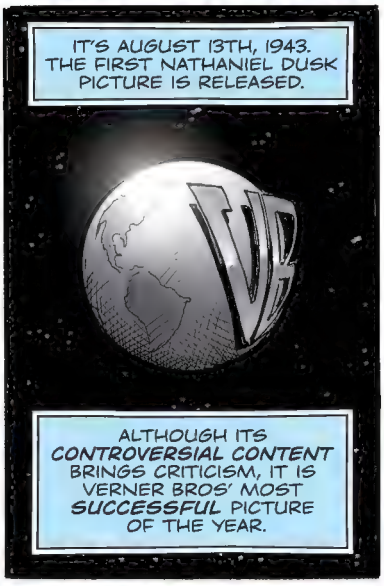
IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, 1928. CARVER COLMAN SITS IN A DARK THEATER IN PHILADELPHIA WHILE HIS MOTHER DANCES DOWN THE STREET FOR SWEATY MEN AND DIMES.
ANYBODY CAN MAKE A MISTAKE. THAT'S WHY THEY HAVE RUBBERS ON PENCILS.
WHEN SHE BRINGS ONE OF THE MEN HOME, HE DECIDES TO GO WEST.
IT'S DECEMBER 31ST, 1928. CARVER COLMAN ARRIVES IN LOS ANGELES WITH SEVENTEEN DOLLARS AND A CLEAN CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
IT'S JANUARY 19TH, 1930. CARVER COLMAN HAS DELIVERED MAIL AT PARAMOUNT STUDIOS FOR EIGHT MONTHS.
MORNING, JACKIE.
MORNING, CALVIN.
PEOPLE STILL DON'T REMEMBER HIS NAME.
IT'S FEBRUARY 14TH. CARVER COLMAN SEES THE STUDIO HEAD KISSING A MAN BEHIND A STAGE.
THE EXECUTIVE DROPS HIS CIGARETTE.
SEVEN HOURS LATER, THE STAGE WILL BURN TO THE GROUND.
TALKING PICTU
STAGE BURNS
THE STUDIO WILL CLAIM IT WAS DUE TO FAULTY WIRING.
BOG MONSTER
CARVER COLMAN LOSES HIS JOB OVER IT.
IT'S FEBRUARY 12TH, 1937. CARVER COLMAN IS FIRED FROM DAN TANA'S WHEN HE SKIPS WORK TO WAIT IN LINE FOR AN AUDITION THAT NEVER HAPPENS.
HE IS EVICTED ON APRIL 18TH, 1938.
THAT NIGHT, CARVER COLMAN SLEEPS ON THE STREETS OF LOS ANGELES.
TEN TO MIDNIGHT, HE IS WOKEN BY A BLUE LIGHT.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
6

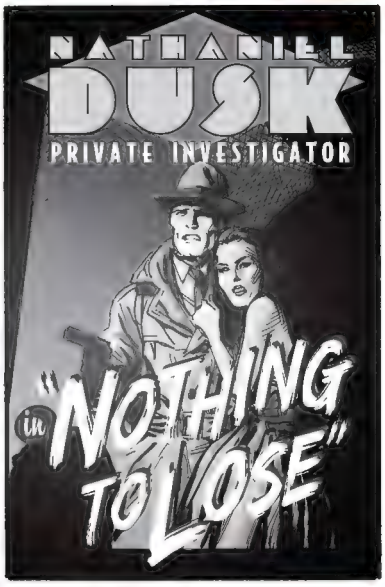
HOW MANY TIMES WE GOTTA TELL YOU TRAMPS TO MOVE ALONG?
GET UP AND GET OUT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THIS IS A NICE PLACE.
THIS IS HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD.
I'VE GOT NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
SURE YOU DO.
THE HOSPITAL, FOR ONE.
HAHAHAHA.
GO ON NOW. FIND ANOTHER STREET.
IT'S APRIL 18TH, 1938.
I ARRIVE.
7

THE FIRST THING I *HEAR* IS CARVER COLMAN CRYING OUT TO THE MAN WHO STRUCK HIM.
THE FIRST THING I *SEE* IS CARVER COLMAN CHECKING HIS PULSE.
THE PEOPLE ON THIS WORLD ARE DIFFERENT.
I WONDER IF THAT IS WHY I WAS DRAWN HERE.
I AM CONFUSED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ADRIAN BLINDED ME WITH TACHYONS.
I TRY TO PULL BACK THE CURTAIN TO UNDERSTAND THE TIME DELINEATION BETWEEN WORLDS.
I SEE MYSELF ON MARS.
OR IS THAT NOW?
GUY! JOHN!
I'M CALLING THE CORPS FOR BACKUP.
*SUMMON* YOUR LANTERNS FOR A *RECHARGE* AND...
NO.
8


I NEED YOU ALL
INCAPACITATED.
FOR REASONS
THAT
WILL BECOME
CLEAR.

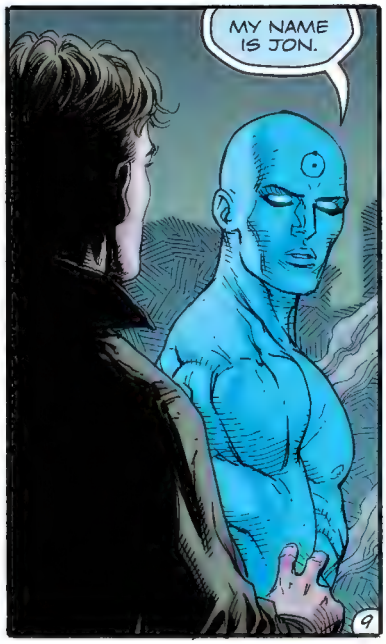

I STAND ON THE SURFACE OF MARS.
WAITING FOR SUPERMAN.


IT'S AUGUST 13TH, 1943. THE FIRST NATHANIEL DUSK PICTURE IS RELEASED.
ALTHOUGH ITS CONTROVERSIAL CONTENT BRINGS CRITICISM, IT IS VERNER BROS' MOST SUCCESSFUL PICTURE OF THE YEAR.


NATHANIEL DUSK
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
in "NOTHING TO LOSE"

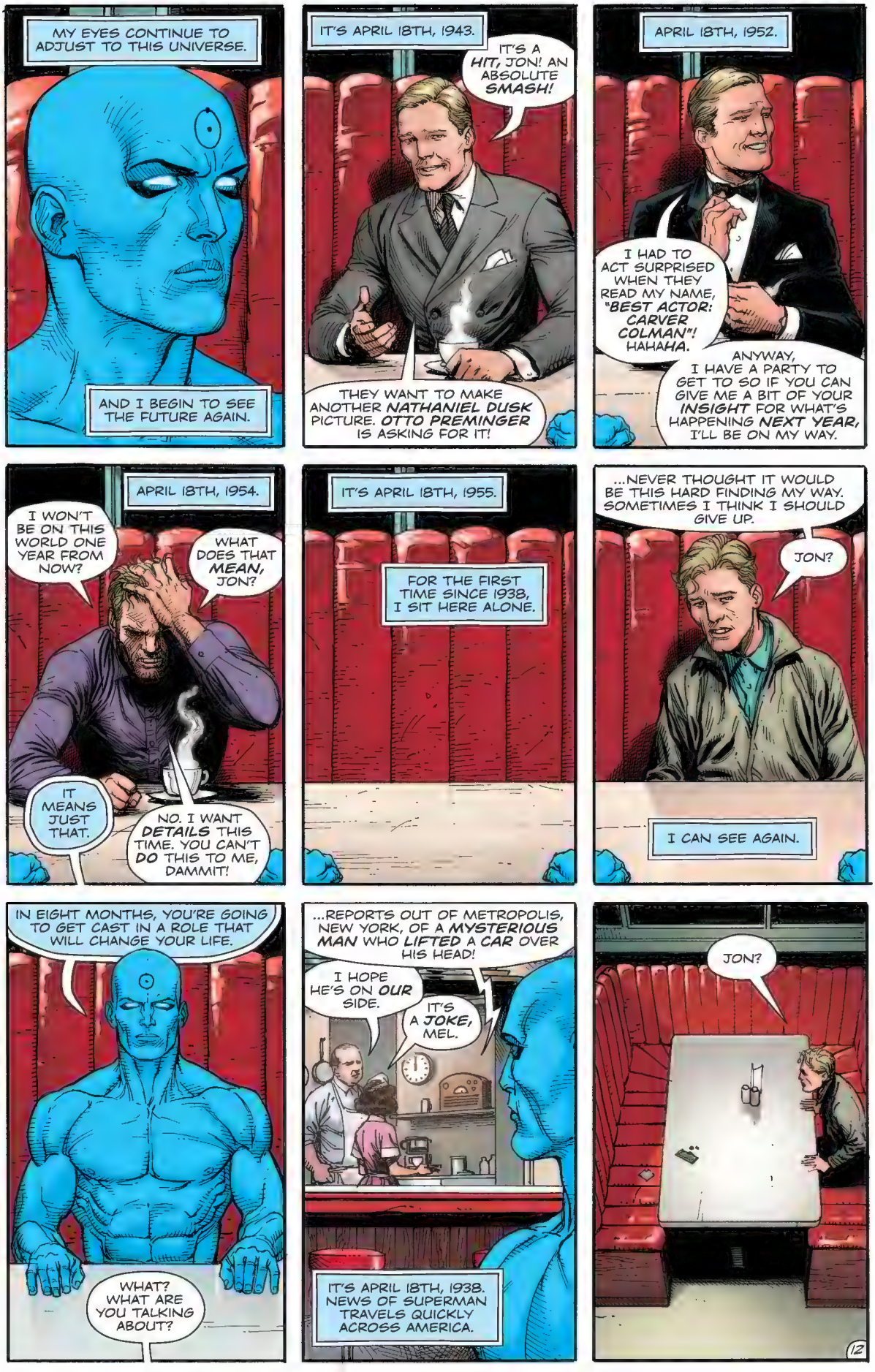
MY NAME IS NATHANIEL DUSK. I'M A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR.
I SERVED IN THE GREAT WAR THEN I SERVED ON THE NEW YORK POLICE FORCE.
NOW I SERVE WHOEVER HAS THE MONEY.

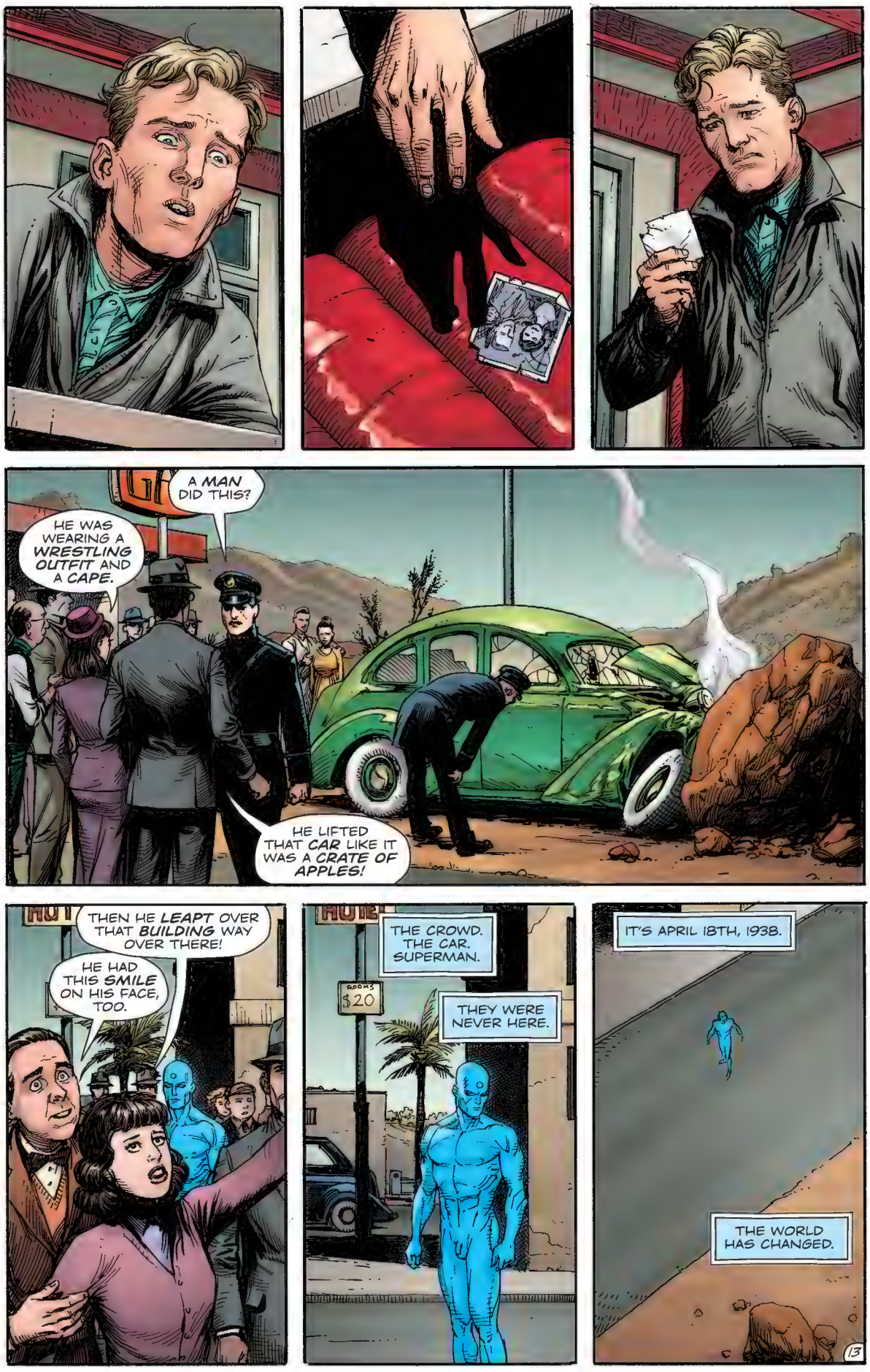
IT'S APRIL 18TH, 1938. I HAVE ARRIVED.
WHO ARE YOU?


MY NAME IS JON.

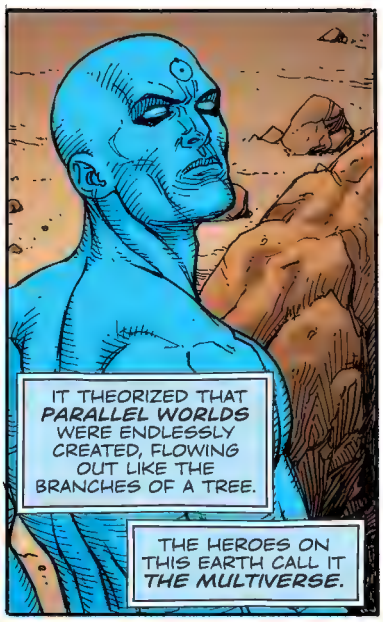
ARE YOU AN ANGEL?
NO.
I HEAR THE YOUNG MAN'S STOMACH GROWL.
DINER
I DON'T HAVE MONEY...
YOU DON'T NEED ANY.
HI THERE. TABLE FOR TWO?
YES. THANK YOU.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY ISN'T SHE...
I'M SHIFTING THE LIGHT'S COLOR FREQUENCIES AROUND ME. SHE'S SEEING WHAT I WANT HER TO SEE.
NOW WHAT CAN I GET YOU BOTH?
10

I, UM...I'D LOVE A HOT BOWL OF SOUP.
WE HAVE SOME CHICKEN NOODLE. MADE RIGHT HERE FROM SCRATCH!
THAT WILL BE ALL FOR NOW...
THANK YOU.
ONE BOWL OF OUR WORLD-FAMOUS CHICKEN NOODLE COMIN' RIGHT UP!
IT IS APRIL 18TH, 1938.
I FEEL LIKE I'M WALKING THROUGH A FOG.
I TRY A SIMPLE EXERCISE.
TO LOOK THREE MINUTES INTO THE FUTURE.
I AM UNABLE TO.
I NEED SOMETHING TO FOCUS ON.
THIS MAN.
IT'S LIKE TRYING TO SEE THROUGH A SOAP-COVERED WINDOW.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IT IS APRIL 18TH, 1938.
A BUZZING FILLS MY EARS AS I ATTEMPT TO OPEN MY EYES.
IT IS APRIL 18TH, 1939.
YOU WERE RIGHT, JON! I GOT THE PART!
RIGHT ALONGSIDE GARY COOPER, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?! IT'S CALLED THE WESTERNER HOW DID YOU...?
...HAVING A HARD TIME AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE SENT FROM HEAVEN.
MY GUARDIAN ANGEL, MAYBE.
BUT IF YOU'RE NOT AN ANGEL...ARE YOU GOD?
11


MY EYES CONTINUE TO ADJUST TO THIS UNIVERSE.
AND I BEGIN TO SEE THE FUTURE AGAIN.
IT'S APRIL 18TH, 1943.
IT'S A HIT, JON! AN ABSOLUTE SMASH!
THEY WANT TO MAKE ANOTHER NATHANIEL DUSK PICTURE. OTTO PREMINGER IS ASKING FOR IT!
APRIL 18TH, 1952.
I HAD TO ACT SURPRISED WHEN THEY READ MY NAME, "BEST ACTOR: CARVER COLMAN"! HAHAHA.
ANYWAY, I HAVE A PARTY TO GET TO SO IF YOU CAN GIVE ME A BIT OF YOUR INSIGHT FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT YEAR, I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
APRIL 18TH, 1954.
I WON'T BE ON THIS WORLD ONE YEAR FROM NOW?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, JON?
IT MEANS JUST THAT.
NO. I WANT DETAILS THIS TIME. YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME, DAMMIT!
IT'S APRIL 18TH, 1955.
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1938, I SIT HERE ALONE.
...NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THIS HARD FINDING MY WAY. SOMETIMES I THINK I SHOULD GIVE UP.
JON?
I CAN SEE AGAIN.
IN EIGHT MONTHS, YOU'RE GOING TO GET CAST IN A ROLE THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE.
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...REPORTS OUT OF METROPOLIS, NEW YORK, OF A MYSTERIOUS MAN WHO LIFTED A CAR OVER HIS HEAD!
I HOPE HE'S ON OUR SIDE.
IT'S A JOKE, MEL.
IT'S APRIL 18TH, 1938. NEWS OF SUPERMAN TRAVELS QUICKLY ACROSS AMERICA.
JON?
12


A MAN DID THIS?
HE WAS WEARING A WRESTLING OUTFIT AND A CAPE.
HE LIFTED THAT CAR LIKE IT WAS A CRATE OF APPLES!
THEN HE LEAPT OVER THAT BUILDING WAY OVER THERE!
HE HAD THIS SMILE ON HIS FACE, TOO.
ROOMS $20
THE CROWD. THE CAR. SUPERMAN.
THEY WERE NEVER HERE.
IT'S APRIL 18TH, 1938.
THE WORLD HAS CHANGED.
13

A THEORETICAL PHYSICIST NAMED BRYCE DeWITT HYPOTHESIZED THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS CONSTANTLY SPLITTING INTO ALTERNATE TIMELINES.
THE MANY WORLDS INTERPRETATION.

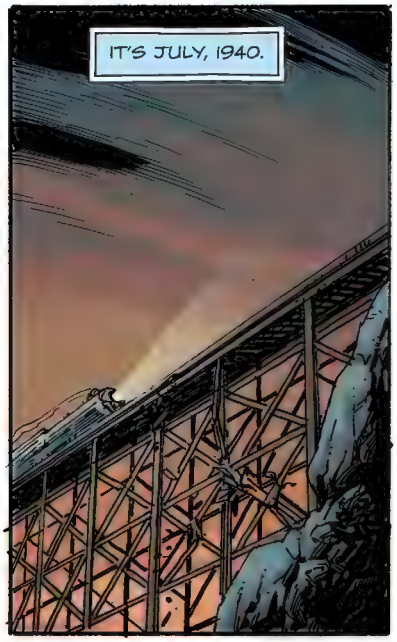

IT THEORIZED THAT PARALLEL WORLDS WERE ENDLESSLY CREATED, FLOWING OUT LIKE THE BRANCHES OF A TREE.
THE HEROES ON THIS EARTH CALL IT THE MULTIVERSE.

AND THIS WORLD WAS ITS CENTER.

THE WORLD WAS INTRODUCED TO SUPERMAN ON APRIL 18TH, 1938.

HE WAS THE FIRST OF THE COSTUMED HEROES.

THE FIRST OF MANY ON THIS WORLD...


IT'S JULY, 1940.

AN ENGINEER NAMED ALAN SCOTT IS ON A TRAIN CAREENING OVER A BRIDGE.

HE GRABS ONTO A GREEN LANTERN, UNAWARE OF THE POWER WITHIN.

IN JANUARY, A COLLEGE STUDENT NAMED JAY GARRICK LIES UNCONSCIOUS IN THE SCHOOL LAB, BREATHING IN HEAVY WATER VAPORS.
BY MORNING, HE WILL BE THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE.
THAT SAME MONTH, ARCHAEOLOGIST CARTER HALL COMES INTO CONTACT WITH AN ANCIENT KNIFE THAT AWAKENS HIS PAST LIFE AS AN EGYPTIAN PRINCE.
REMEMBERING THE WARRIOR HE WAS, CARTER WILL SEARCH FOR NOT ONLY THE WEAPONS HE ONCE WIELDED, BUT FOR THE LOVE HE LOST.
IN OCTOBER, FRUSTRATED BY HIS SIZE, AL PRATT BEGINS TRAINING UNDER ONE OF THE GREATEST FIGHTERS IN THE WORLD.
IN NOVEMBER, HE WILL SIT AROUND A TABLE AND FEEL THE NEED TO POINT THAT OUT.
IN MAY, A GOLDEN HELMET OF UNKNOWN SUPERNATURAL POWER FALLS INTO THE HANDS OF KENT NELSON.
THREE YEARS LATER, HE WILL LEARN THE SPIRIT WITHIN SOUGHT HIM OUT.
IT'S APRIL, 1939. WESLEY DODDS AWAKES FROM A NIGHTMARE OF A MURDER ON THE GROUNDS OF THE WORLD'S FAIR.
DONNING A GAS MASK, WESLEY DODDS FINDS THE KILLER.
IN FEBRUARY OF 1940, THE BODY OF JIM CORRIGAN LIES STILL.
R.I.P.
HE RISES FROM THE DEAD, SEEKING VENGEANCE.
IN MARCH, CHEMIST REX TYLER WILL INVENT A PILL THAT INCREASES HIS STRENGTH TENFOLD.
HE BEGINS TRIAL TESTING ON HIMSELF.
IT'S NOVEMBER, 1940.
"I KNOW WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SUPERMAN..."

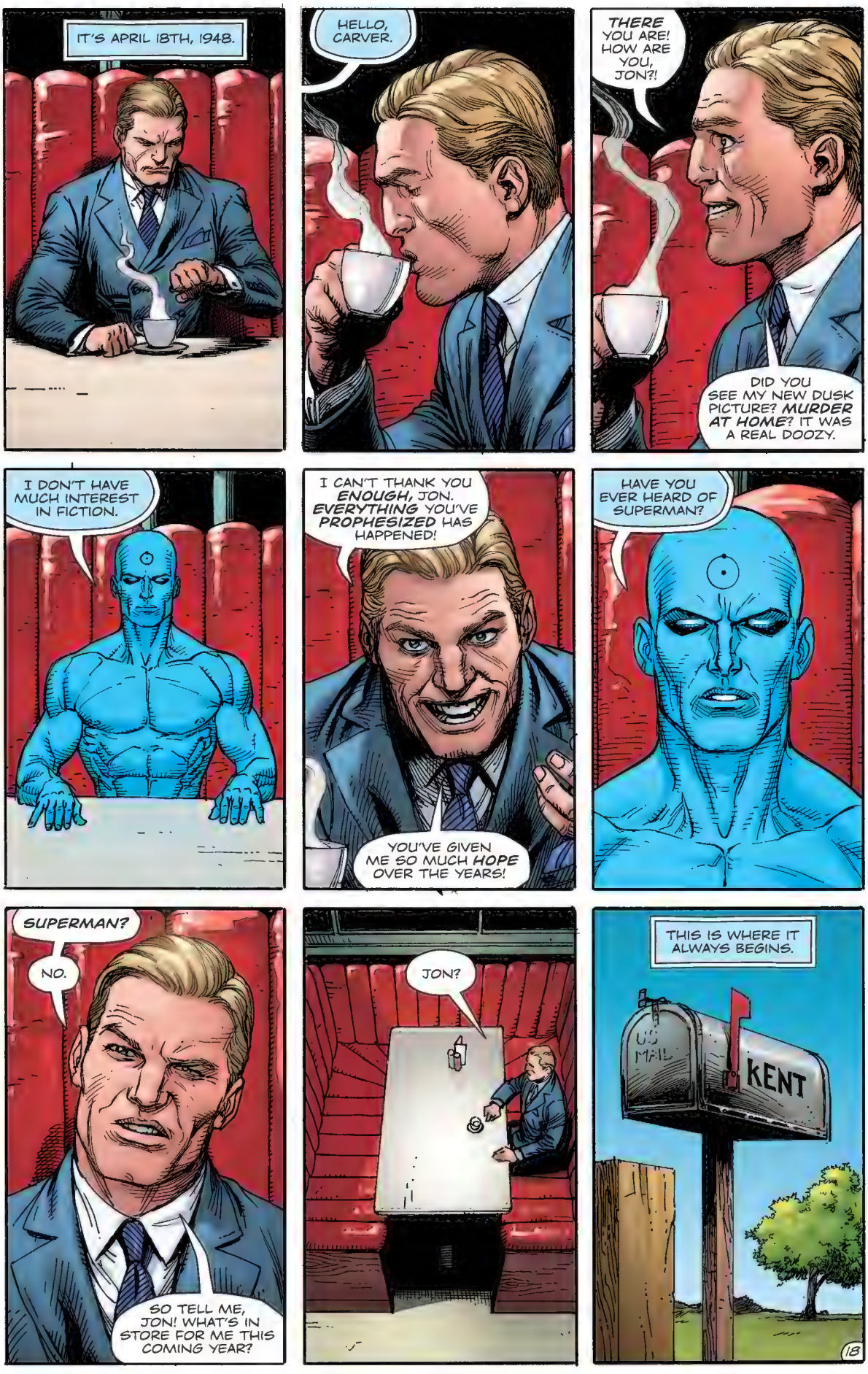
...BUT IF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA IS GOING TO WORK, I THINK WE NEED HIM.
MAYBE HIS INVITATION GOT LOST.
MAYBE HE THINKS HE'S TOO GOOD FOR THE REST OF US.
I'M SURE THAT ISN'T THE CASE.
I AGREE.
SUPERMAN IS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE DAILY STAR EVERY MORNING. HE'S A BUSY GUY.

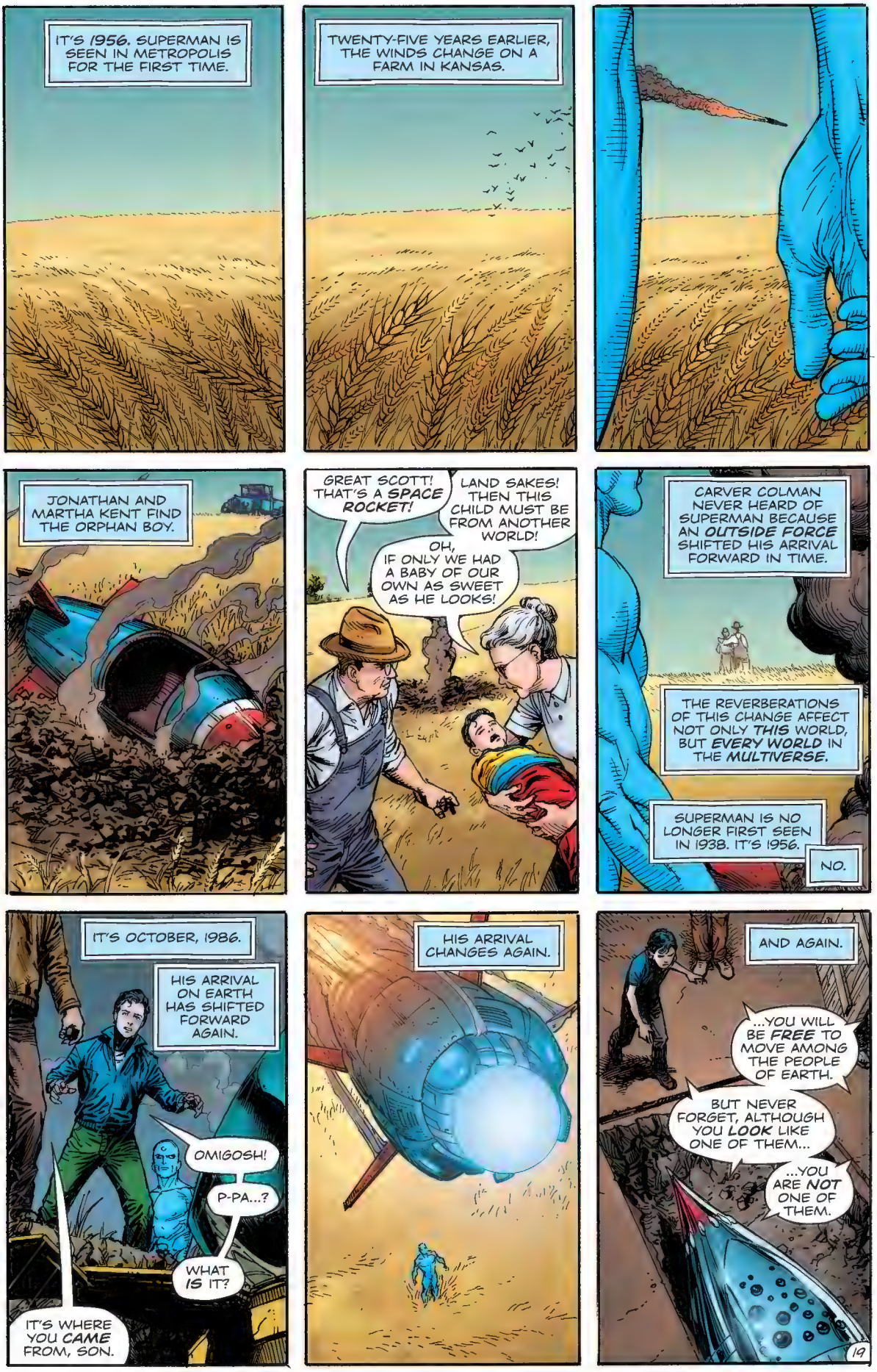
HE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ME WHEN I FIRST GOT MY POWERS.
THEY CALL ME THE FLASH, BY THE WAY. I'VE OUTRUN BULLETS. EVEN CAUGHT A FEW.

WE ALL READ THE PAPERS, FLASH. WE KNOW WHO EVERYONE IS.
AND I SEE YOU ALL STARIN'. I MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH IN PERSON, BUT I WAS TRAINED BY OLD JOE MORGAN HIMSELF.
ASK ME, WE DON'T NEED SUPERMAN. WE GOT GREEN LANTERN AND HIS MAGIC RING.
I HEAR IT CAN DO ANYTHING.

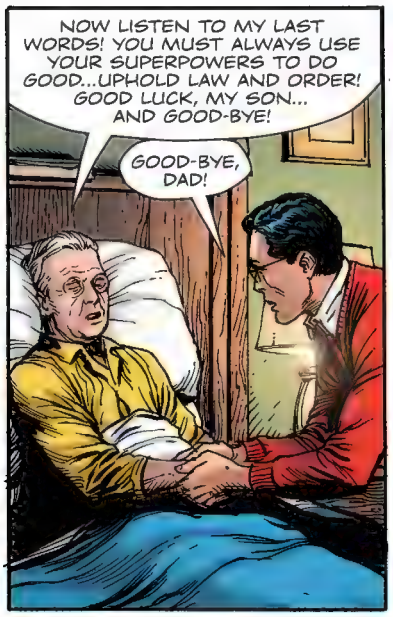
I'M NOT SURE IT CAN DO ANYTHING... ATOM, IS IT?
THOUGH THE RING AND ITS LANTERN DID SAVE MY LIFE.
OKAY, EVERYONE SAY "CHEESE!"

NO PICTURES YET, JOHNNY. I'M STILL WORKING ON MY COSTUME.
THE HOOD'S NOT RIGHT.
LET'S GIVE SUPERMAN SOME MORE TIME.
I CAN FIND OUT WHERE SUPERMAN IS!
I CAN SUMMON MY MAGIC THUNDERBOLT TO TELL US!
CEI-U!
HIYA, JOHNNY! WHAT CAN I DO YOU FOR?
FIND SUPERM--
NO PICTURES YET, JOHNNY. I'M STILL WORKING ON MY COSTUME.
THE HOOD'S NOT RIGHT.
I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT WE CAPTURE THIS MOMENT.
THE ENTIRE TEAM IS HERE.
IT'S NOVEMBER, 1940. GREEN LANTERN HAS NEVER HEARD OF SUPERMAN.
NO ONE HAS.
"WHERE IS HE?"

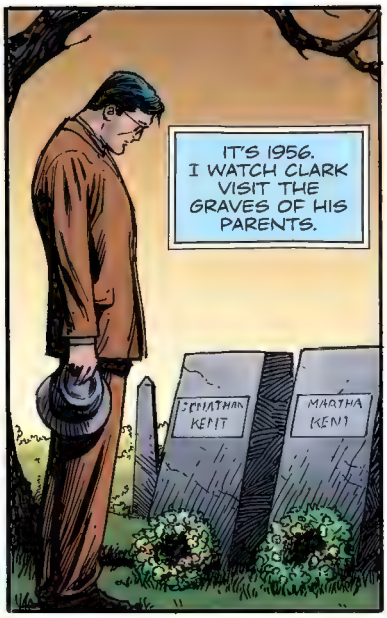

IT'S APRIL 18TH, 1948.
HELLO, CARVER.
THERE YOU ARE! HOW ARE YOU, JON?!
DID YOU SEE MY NEW DUSK PICTURE? MURDER AT HOME? IT WAS A REAL DOOZY.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH INTEREST IN FICTION.
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, JON. EVERYTHING YOU'VE PROPHESIZED HAS HAPPENED!
YOU'VE GIVEN ME SO MUCH HOPE OVER THE YEARS!
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF SUPERMAN?
SUPERMAN?
NO.
SO TELL ME, JON! WHAT'S IN STORE FOR ME THIS COMING YEAR?
JON?
THIS IS WHERE IT ALWAYS BEGINS.
US MAIL
KENT
18

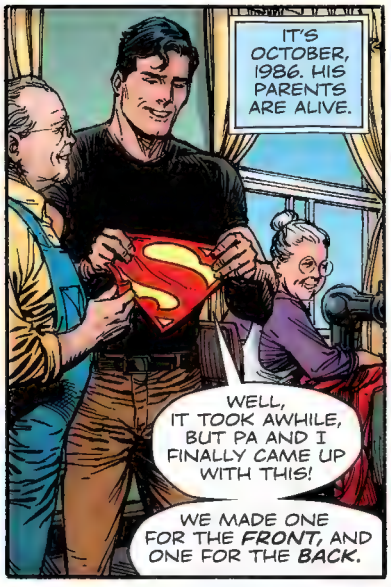

IT'S 1956. SUPERMAN IS SEEN IN METROPOLIS FOR THE FIRST TIME.
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS EARLIER, THE WINDS CHANGE ON A FARM IN KANSAS.
JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT FIND THE ORPHAN BOY.
GREAT SCOTT! THAT'S A SPACE ROCKET!
LAND SAKES! THEN THIS CHILD MUST BE FROM ANOTHER WORLD!
OH, IF ONLY WE HAD A BABY OF OUR OWN AS SWEET AS HE LOOKS!
CARVER COLMAN NEVER HEARD OF SUPERMAN BECAUSE AN OUTSIDE FORCE SHIFTED HIS ARRIVAL FORWARD IN TIME.
THE REVERBERATIONS OF THIS CHANGE AFFECT NOT ONLY THIS WORLD, BUT EVERY WORLD IN THE MULTIVERSE.
SUPERMAN IS NO LONGER FIRST SEEN IN 1938. IT'S 1956.
NO.
IT'S OCTOBER, 1986.
HIS ARRIVAL ON EARTH HAS SHIFTED FORWARD AGAIN.
OMIGOSH!
P-PA...?
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S WHERE YOU CAME FROM, SON.
HIS ARRIVAL CHANGES AGAIN.
AND AGAIN.
...YOU WILL BE FREE TO MOVE AMONG THE PEOPLE OF EARTH.
BUT NEVER FORGET, ALTHOUGH YOU LOOK LIKE ONE OF THEM...
...YOU ARE NOT ONE OF THEM.

THIS ISN'T TRUE.
CLARK! WAIT!
IT'S NOT!
CLARK?!
IT CAN'T BE.
CLARK?
I DON'T WANT TO BE DIFFERENT.
I WANT TO BE CLARK KENT.
I WANT TO BE YOUR SON.
CLARK...
YOU ARE MY SON.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS UNIVERSE.
SON, YOU DID YOUR BEST FOR US!


NOW LISTEN TO MY LAST WORDS! YOU MUST ALWAYS USE YOUR SUPERPOWERS TO DO GOOD...UPHOLD LAW AND ORDER! GOOD LUCK, MY SON... AND GOOD-BYE!
GOOD-BYE, DAD!

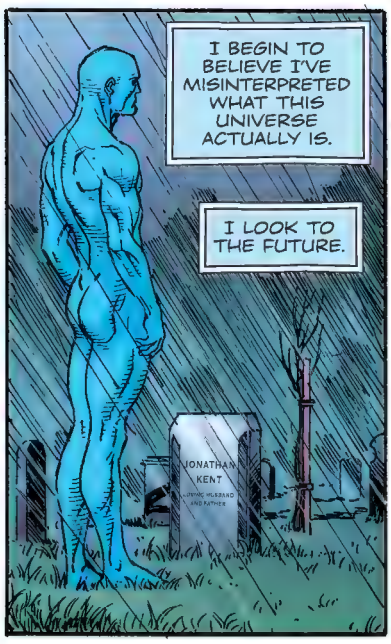
IT'S MAY, 1949. A YOUNG CLARK KENT SITS BY HIS PARENTS' BEDSIDE AS THEY PASS AWAY.

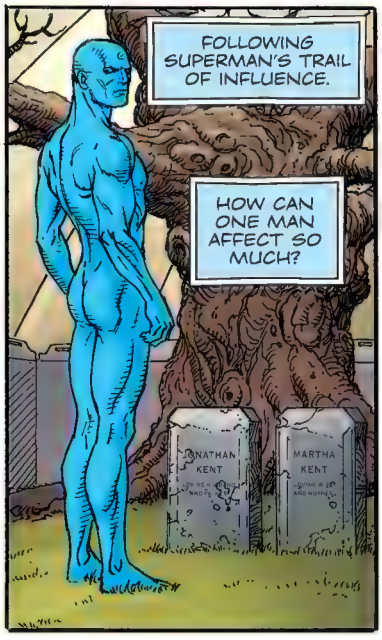

IT'S 1956. I WATCH CLARK VISIT THE GRAVES OF HIS PARENTS.
JONATHAN KENT
MARTHA KENT


IT'S OCTOBER, 1986. HIS PARENTS ARE ALIVE.
WELL, IT TOOK AWHILE, BUT PA AND I FINALLY CAME UP WITH THIS!
WE MADE ONE FOR THE FRONT, AND ONE FOR THE BACK.

YEARS LATER, JONATHAN KENT DIES AGAIN IN HIS SON'S ARMS.

JONATHAN KENT
LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER

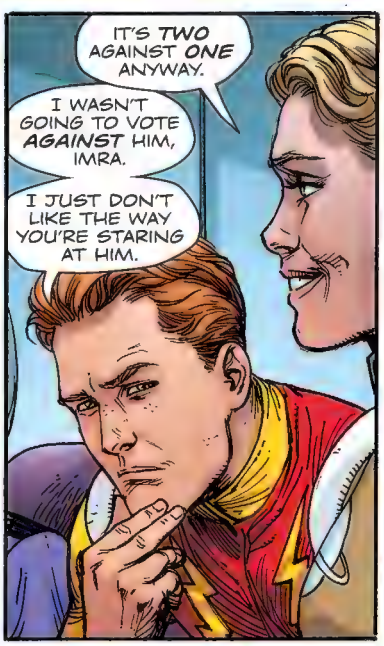

I BEGIN TO BELIEVE I'VE MISINTERPRETED WHAT THIS UNIVERSE ACTUALLY IS.
I LOOK TO THE FUTURE.
JONATHAN KENT

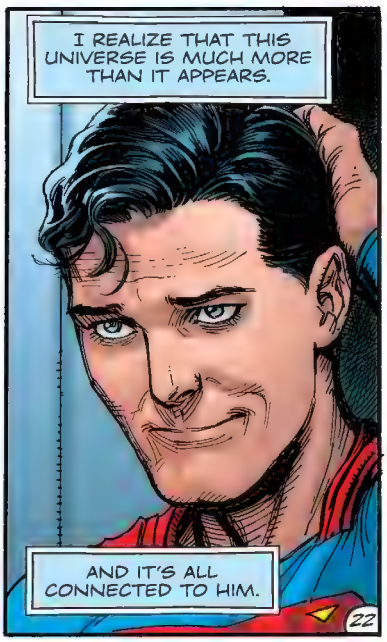

FOLLOWING SUPERMAN'S TRAIL OF INFLUENCE.
HOW CAN ONE MAN AFFECT SO MUCH?
JONATHAN KENT
MARTHA KENT

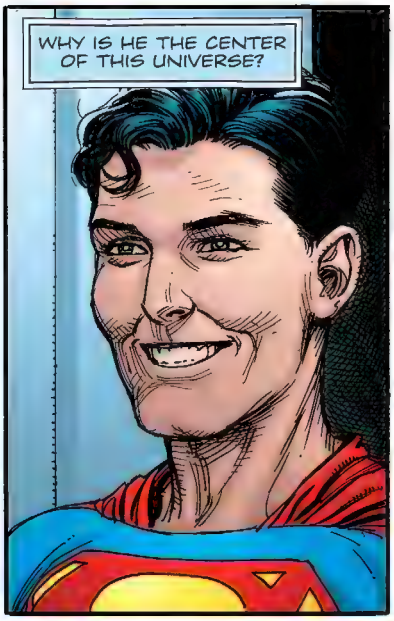
EVEN ONE THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW...

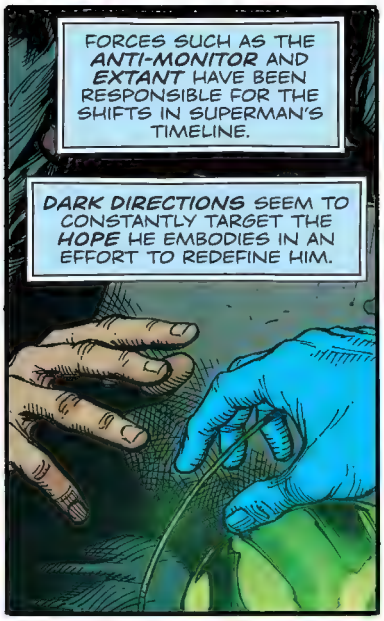
...HIS HOPE IS ALIVE.
AFTER YEARS OF FEELING ISOLATED AND ALONE, CLARK KENT IS APPROACHED BY THREE TEENAGERS FROM THE FUTURE.
THEY BRING HIM FORWARD TO THE 31ST CENTURY.
WELCOME TO THE CLUBHOUSE, KAL.
AS THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, EACH ONE OF US HAS COME TO EARTH FROM OUR RESPECTIVE WORLDS TO CARRY ON YOUR MISSION TO COMBAT XENOPHOBIA OF ALL KINDS!
MY MISSION?
COSMIC BOY
LIGHTNING BOY
SATURN GIRL
YES
NO
YES
NO
YES
NO

DON'T WORRY, KAL.
THE VOTING PROCESS IS A FORMALITY.


IT'S TWO AGAINST ONE ANYWAY.
I WASN'T GOING TO VOTE AGAINST HIM, IMRA.
I JUST DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU'RE STARING AT HIM.


I REALIZE THAT THIS UNIVERSE IS MUCH MORE THAN IT APPEARS.
AND IT'S ALL CONNECTED TO HIM.

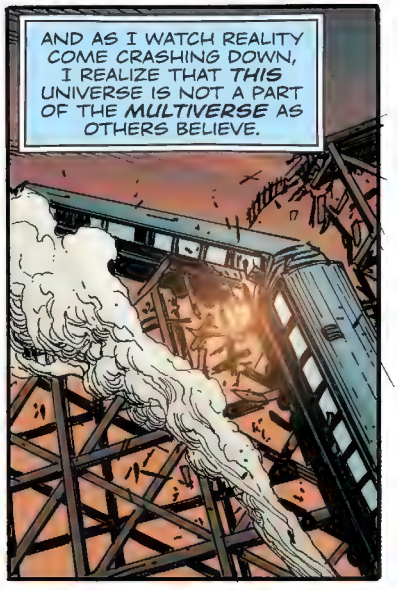

WHY IS HE THE CENTER OF THIS UNIVERSE?


FORCES SUCH AS THE ANTI-MONITOR AND EXTANT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHIFTS IN SUPERMAN'S TIMELINE.
DARK DIRECTIONS SEEM TO CONSTANTLY TARGET THE HOPE HE EMBODIES IN AN EFFORT TO REDEFINE HIM.

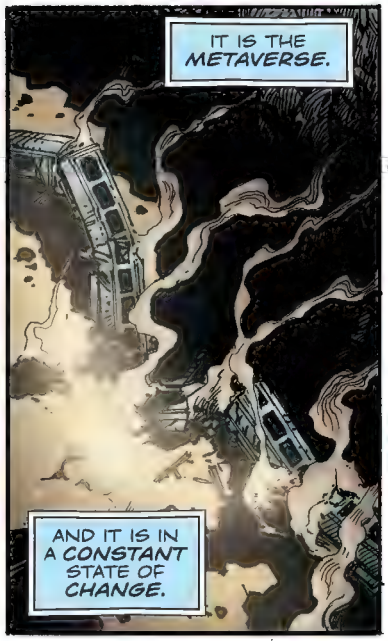
I GROW CURIOUS.

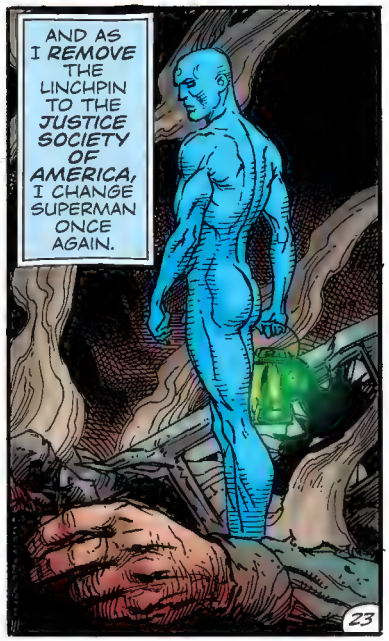
AS OTHERS HAVE DONE, I MOVE TO RESHAPE THIS UNIVERSE SO THAT I MIGHT SEE HOW IT FORMS AROUND SUPERMAN.

I CHANGE THE PAST TO CHALLENGE THE FUTURE.

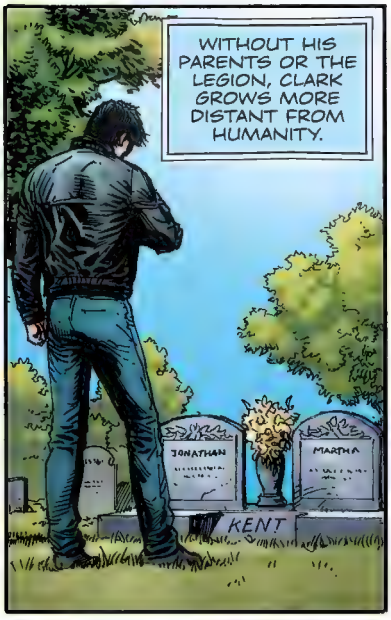

AND AS I WATCH REALITY COME CRASHING DOWN, I REALIZE THAT THIS UNIVERSE IS NOT A PART OF THE MULTIVERSE AS OTHERS BELIEVE.

THE MULTIVERSE REACTS TO THIS UNIVERSE. THERE HAVE BEEN ENDLESS PARALLEL WORLDS, NONE, FIFTY-TWO, DARK MULTIVERSES, ALL CREATED BY CHANGES TO THIS UNIVERSE.
THIS UNIVERSE STANDS APART FROM THE MULTIVERSE.


IT IS THE METAVERSE.
AND IT IS IN A CONSTANT STATE OF CHANGE.

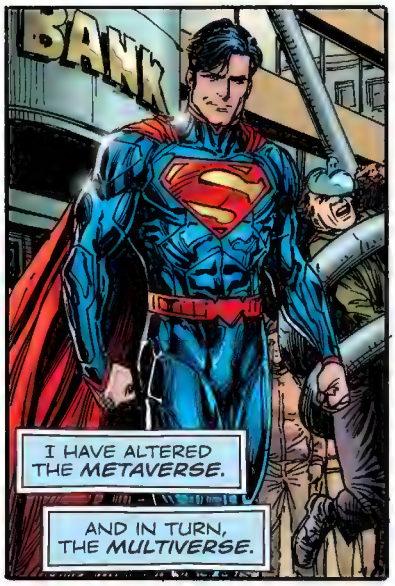

AND AS I REMOVE THE LINCHPIN TO THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA, I CHANGE SUPERMAN ONCE AGAIN.

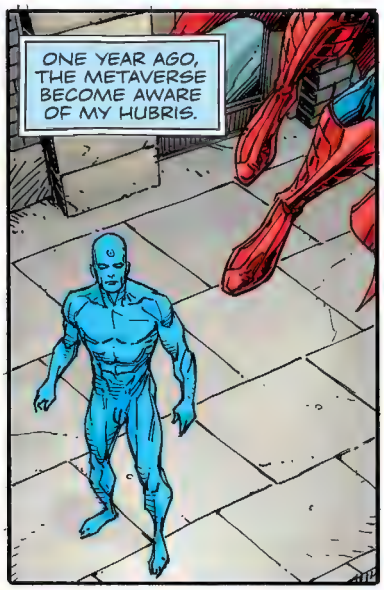
I WATCH AS MY TAKE ON THIS UNIVERSE SHARPENS INTO REALITY.
SUPERMAN IS SENT TO EARTH AS A CHILD.
I LOST OUR BABY.
OUR LAST CHANCE AT... AT A...
WHAT IS THAT, JONATHAN?
...IT WAS LIKE CRYING.
I KNOW HOW THAT SOUNDS, BUT I KNOW WHAT I HEARD...
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF PLANE OR SPACE EXPERIMENT.
JONNY, IT'S...
IT'S A BABY.
ON THE EVE OF CLARK KENT'S HIGH SCHOOL PROM, JONATHAN AND MARTHA ARE KILLED IN A CAR ACCIDENT.


WITHOUT HIS PARENTS OR THE LEGION, CLARK GROWS MORE DISTANT FROM HUMANITY.
JONATHAN
MARTHA
KENT

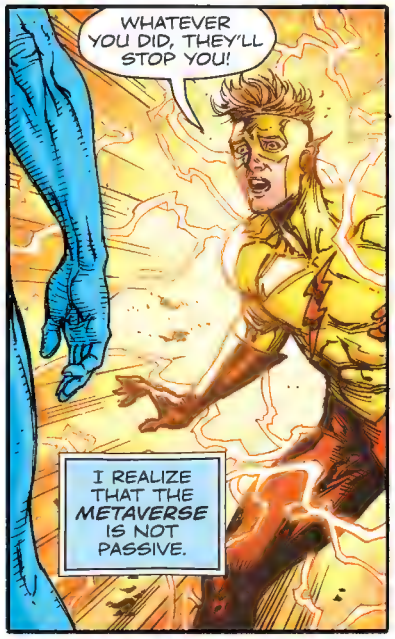
I UNDERSTAND HIM BETTER.
I RELATE TO HIM MORE.

IT IS FIVE YEARS AGO AND I FEEL THE POWER OF CHANGING SUPERMAN.
IT IS *INTOXICATING.*

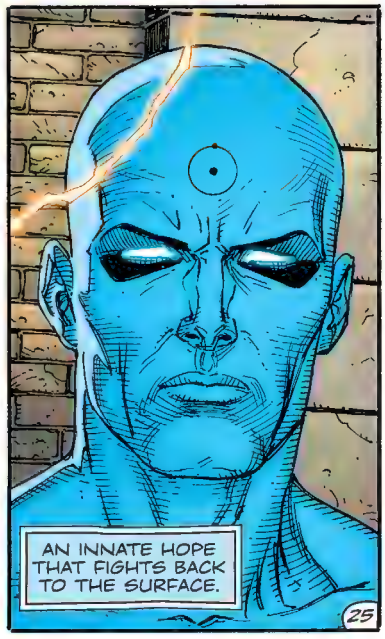

BANK
I HAVE ALTERED THE *METAVERSE.*
AND IN TURN, THE *MULTIVERSE.*


ONE YEAR AGO, THE METAVERSE BECOME AWARE OF MY HUBRIS.

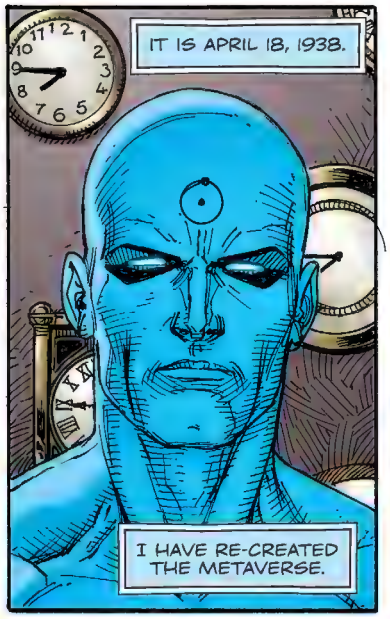
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID!


WHATEVER YOU DID, THEY'LL STOP YOU!
I REALIZE THAT THE *METAVERSE* IS NOT PASSIVE.

LIKE AN ORGANISM FIGHTING TO SURVIVE, THERE ARE ASPECTS OF IT I HAVE UNDERESTIMATED.


AN INNATE HOPE THAT FIGHTS BACK TO THE SURFACE.

JON, TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE!

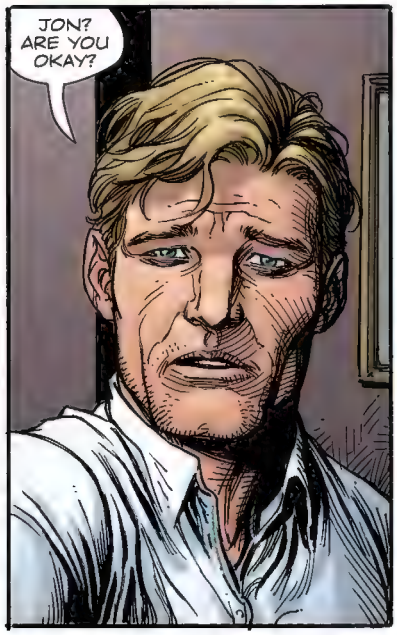

IT IS APRIL 18, 1938.
I HAVE RE-CREATED THE METAVERSE.

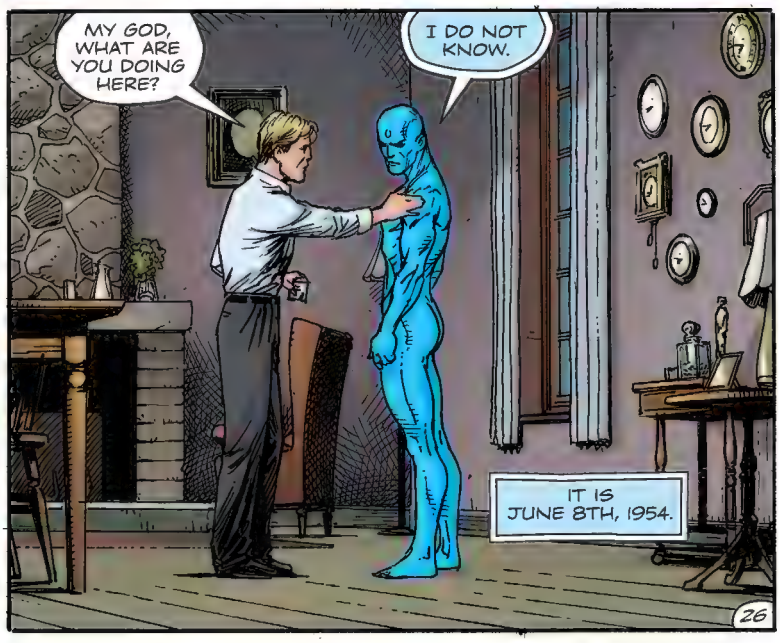
AND IT HAS TURNED AGAINST ME.

I SEE A VISION OF SUPERMAN IN THE FUTURE.

HE HAS FOUND ME.

AND HE DESTROYS ME.
OR I DESTROY THE METAVERSE.
JON?


JON? ARE YOU OKAY?


MY GOD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I DO NOT KNOW.
IT IS JUNE 8TH, 1954.

IN TEN SECONDS, CARVER COLMAN WILL BE DEAD.
I KNOW YOU NEVER EAT, JON, BUT LET ME GET YOU A DRINK.
"...WHY BRING ME INTO IT?
TO FRAME ME? TO KEEP ME BUSY WHILE YOU CLEANED UP LOOSE ENDS, ONE OF WHICH WAS ME?
JON? WHERE'D YOU GO?
HELLO? IS SOMEONE THERE?
"OR WAS IT BECAUSE...YOU WANTED ME TO STOP YOU, JOYCE."
I LOVE YOU. BUT NOT THAT MUCH.
GO TO HELL, NATE!
ON JUNE 8TH, 1954, CARVER COLMAN IS MURDERED.
HIS MOTHER AND HER ASSOCIATE RANSACK HIS HOME, TAKING WHAT CASH AND VALUABLES THEY CAN FIND.
THE HOUSEKEEPER BURNS THE LETTER PROTECTING CARVER'S SECRET. THE KILLING IS NEVER SOLVED.

IT'S MAY, 1971. I HAVE ENDED THE WAR IN VIETNAM.
I WATCH BLAKE SHOOT A WOMAN WITH CHILD AND DO NOTHING.
IT'S APRIL, 1938. I USE A MAN NAMED CARVER COLMAN TO HELP ME FIND BALANCE IN THE METAVERSE.
SIXTEEN YEARS LATER, I WATCH HIS MOTHER BLUDGEON HIM TO DEATH IN HIS HOME AND I DO NOTHING.
IT'S NOVEMBER 1ST, 1985. ADRIAN KILLS MILLIONS TO UNITE THE WORLD.
ON NOVEMBER 2ND, I ALLOW ADRIAN TO WALK FREE.
I AM A BEING OF *INACTION.*
ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH A MAN OF *ACTION.*
TO THIS UNIVERSE OF HOPE...
...I HAVE BECOME THE VILLAIN.
28

Every action has its pleasures and its price.

—Socrates

VALUABLE
RETURN TO:
VERNER BROTHERS
STORY DEPT. FILES
ROOM 14 BUILDING 48

THE ADJOURNMENT

By Jonathan Law

March 2, 1954

*Property of*

VERNER BRO
FILM CORPOR

*Return to Stenographic*

Dear Verner

I received your letter [illegible] unfortunately I never got into musical pursuit difficulties [illegible] your refusal to respond to my calls I have been forced to purchase a ticket to Los Angeles so that we may talk face to face I will be arriving with in associate of mine on June 8

I have made it clear that, as your mother, I have felt betrayed by your stories to the press. You told Hollywood Rag that you grew up on a farm in Merrimill, Indiana with your mother and father. But you grew up in Philadelphia and you never met your father. You told Celebrity Stars that you said in Vid Inzna and were inspired to come out to Hollywood. But you didn't leave because you were inspired by a movie. I kicked you out because I caught you and Billy in your room together - under the Hollywood [illegible] [illegible] Star [illegible]

[illegible] payment [illegible] additional [illegible] my story

Love Me Not

FADE IN:

**INT. NATHANIEL DUSK'S OFFICE - CHRISTMAS EVE**

MOVING ACROSS NATHANIEL DUSK'S DESK; a picture of his (now-deceased) fiancé JOYCE GULINO and her TWO CHILDREN next to a FULL ASH TRAY... and a GLASS OF WHISKEY.

DUSK (V.O.)
It's worse at Christmastime. Being without my family.

DUSK'S HAND reaches for the whiskey.

DUSK (V.O.)
I lost my girl to her ex-husband, a gangster who got a bullet in his gut but deserved worse. And the kids to her parents in Indiana. The truth is, Joyce and he children were never mind to being with.

Silhouetted by the window, Dusk drinks. It's never enough.

DUSK (V.O.)
At least that's what I keep telling myself. Bottle half gone, I'm starting to believe it.

CLOSER ON: Dusk, the lights outside turn on... and off...

DUSK (V.O.)
Blinking red and green lights on Maria's soup kitchen make my headache worse. Never been one for charity.

The SHADOW of a FIGURE can be seen through the FROSTED GLASS of Dusk's door. NATHANIEL DUSK, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR on it.

DUSK (V.O.)
That's why I went into business for myself. But on Christmas Eve, business is supposed to be closed.

MURRAY (BEHIND DOOR)
Dusk? You in there?

Dusk has no idea it's his old friend, LT. MURRAY ABRAHAMS. The only cop on the force he trusts.

Hunched at Joyce's feet, Dusk opens the present. He looks inside the box to find: A GLASS GLOBE.

JOYCE
You said it felt like we were the only people in the world when we were alone. I wanted you to have that world. A world to remember.

Dusk looks into the reflection in the globe, watching Murray holding his gun. He spots Murray gazing away for a moment.

DUSK
Thanks!

Dusk spins around, throwing the globe at Murray! The globe shatters, knocking the gun out of Murray's hand! Dusk goes for the gun, but Joyce kicks it skittering across the floor. Back into Murray's hands.

MURRAY
Nice try. But you lose, Nate.

Suddenly, SIRENS wail outside. The police are here.

DUSK
No losers yet, Murray. As much as I hate the NYPD... I called them.
(off Murray's shock)
Do you really think I'd meet you in the dead of night to discuss the case without knowing what I was walking into?

MURRAY
What are you talking about?

DUSK
I solved the chess player murders 35 minutes ago, Murray.
I know they were both targets and I know Joyce had you kill them.

Joyce and Murray exchange a look, the tables turning.

DUSK (CONT'D)
I was so focused on what made the two men different... I didn't see the obvious. It was what they have in common that mattered.

Joyce and Murray hear the police exit their cars outside. As the police close in, Dusk walks towards Joyce, unafraid.

DUSK (CONT'D)
The city planner, Bentley Farmer, was Murray's brother-in-law. I knew Murray disliked him, but that wasn't what tipped me off. Every plan Farmer approved over the last year was connected to Costilino's businesses. Now your businesses, I guess you'd rather I say, Joyce. Farmer was on the payroll. And the banker, Alastair Tempus, was fronting the cash. The only question I have left is... why bring me into it? To frame me? To keep me busy while you cleaned up loose ends, one of which was me? Or was it because... you wanted me to stop you, Joyce?

JOYCE
I love you. But not that much.

As the cops rush in, Murray shoots Dusk in the back. BANG!

MURRAY
Go to hell, Nate!

The cops tackle Murray and grab Joyce. Dusk lies on the floor, bleeding. He looks up at Joyce with a smile.

DUSK
I love you, too.

Still smiling, he blacks out.

INT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - NEW YEAR'S EVE

It's New Year's Eve. People celebrate in the streets as the clock ticks down. Limping through the crowd we find... NATHANIEL DUSK on a crutch, healing from the shooting days before.

DUSK (V.O.)
Doc says the limp will put me out of the game permanently. I don't mind. I was honest. I was loyal. And I've learned the greatest lesson of all...

He looks up at the clock as it ticks down, people cheering.

DUSK (V.O.)
It's not who wins or loses. It's how you played the game.

THE END

LAUNCH CONTROL CONSOLE
IN SHUTDOWN
HR MIN
LAUNCH CONTROL AND MONITOR
BATTERIES ACTIVATED
BATTERY HOLD
LAUNCH ENABLE
EADY TO LAUNCH
LAUNCH NO - GO
APS POWER
APS HOLD
FIRE FUEL ON/OFF
POWER
FUEL
MISSILE
G FRANK
B ANDERSON

"THE PRESIDENT DECLARED, 'WITHOUT SUPERMAN, AMERICA NEEDS TO RELY ON MORE TRADITIONAL DETERRENTS TO FOREIGN THREATS.'"
LAUNCH CONTROL AND MO
MY ARM! YOU BROKE MY...
...GANG WAR BETWEEN THE JOKER AND TWO UNKNOWN PLAYERS HAS ERUPTED ACROSS GOTHAM!
PROTESTORS HAVE DISPERSED AS A MANDATORY CURFEW IS...OH, FORGET THIS SHIT, JAKE! I WANT THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
AAAAEEEEE!
IF READING THIS NOW, WHETHER I AM ALIVE OR DEAD, YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH: "WHATEVER PRECISE NATURE OF THIS CONSPIRACY, ADRIAN VEIDT IS RESPONSIBLE."
HAVE DONE BEST TO MAKE THIS LEGIBLE. BELIEVE IT PAINTS A DISTURBING PICTURE.
1

appreciate your recent support and hope world survives long enough for this to reach you, but tanks are in east berlin, and writing is on wall.
for my own part, regret nothing. have lived life, free from compromise...

...and step into the shadow now without complaint.

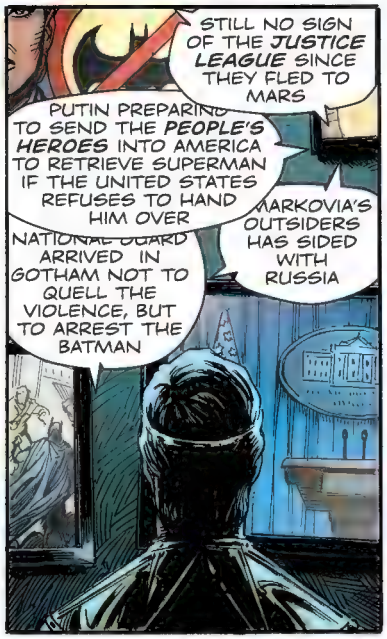
rorschach, november 1st, 1985.
JOURNAL 1984

I SEE FREE STUFF!
YOU SEE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE

MY FRIEND MURRAY WANTED MY HELP SOLVING THE CASE. TO FIND THE KILLER I KNEW I HAD TO ANSWER A SIMPLE QUESTION...
GRAB THE TV!
WHO WAS THE TARGET AND WHO WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME?
MERRY CHRISTMAS, NATHANIEL.

I ALWAYS SAW MYSELF AS A KNIGHT OF SORTS. TURNS OUT...

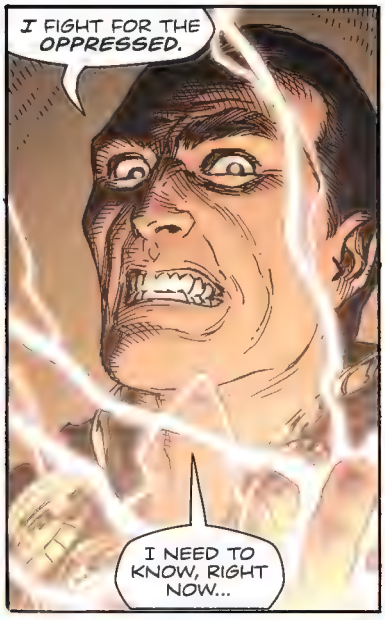
"I'VE BEEN THE PAWN."

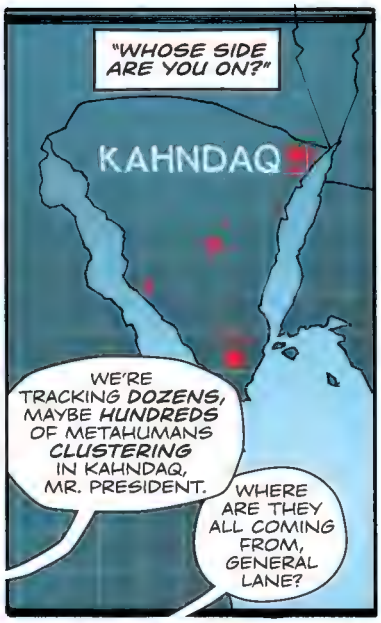

STILL NO SIGN OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SINCE THEY FLED TO MARS
PUTIN PREPARING TO SEND THE PEOPLE'S HEROES INTO AMERICA TO RETRIEVE SUPERMAN IF THE UNITED STATES REFUSES TO HAND HIM OVER
MARKOVIA'S OUTSIDERS HAS SIDED WITH RUSSIA
NATIONAL GUARD ARRIVED IN GOTHAM NOT TO QUELL THE VIOLENCE, BUT TO ARREST THE BATMAN

"...CHARGED WITH TREASON AFTER 'LEAVING DOZENS OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS WOUNDED, SOME SEVERELY,' THE WHITE HOUSE SAID."
2

"...THANK YOU TO THE TREMENDOUS WONDER WOMAN WHO HAS STOOD UP TO KAHNDAQ'S EVIL LEADER AND HIS VERY BAD METAHUMANS.
"BLACK ADAM IS A HUGE TERRORIST THREAT TO THE WORLD. BUT AMERICA WILL WIN. THE BIGGER THEY ARE...
"...THE BIGGER THEY'LL FALL."
"IT'S HARDER, MR. PRESIDENT."
AAAAAAAA!
YOU PREACH OF PEACE AS IF THAT'S WHAT THE LEADERS OF THIS BLOATED, SELFISH, FRIGHTENED COUNTRY WANT.
3

THEY ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE WHO ENSLAVED YOUR PEOPLE, DIANA. WHO RAPED AND KILLED SO MANY OF YOU.
THEY FIGHT FOR THE PRIVILEGED.

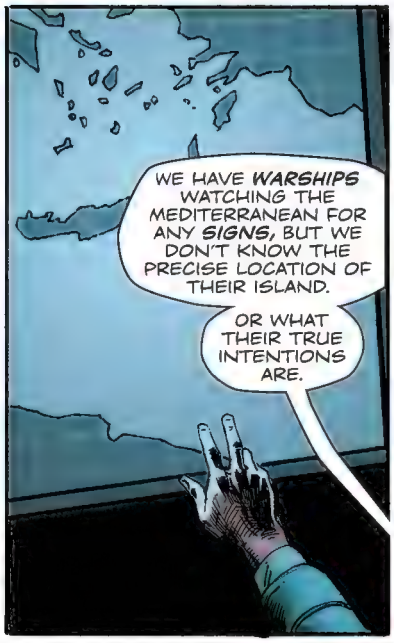

I FIGHT FOR THE OPPRESSED.
I NEED TO KNOW, RIGHT NOW...


"WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?"
KAHNDAQ
WE'RE TRACKING DOZENS, MAYBE HUNDREDS OF METAHUMANS CLUSTERING IN KAHNDAQ, MR. PRESIDENT.
WHERE ARE THEY ALL COMING FROM, GENERAL LANE?

FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.
THE SUPERMEN THEORY, THE ABDUCTIONS OF METAHUMANS BY GOVERNMENTS AND TRAFFICKERS... THESE PEOPLE SEE KAHNDAQ AS THEIR ONLY OPTION TO FIND SAFETY.

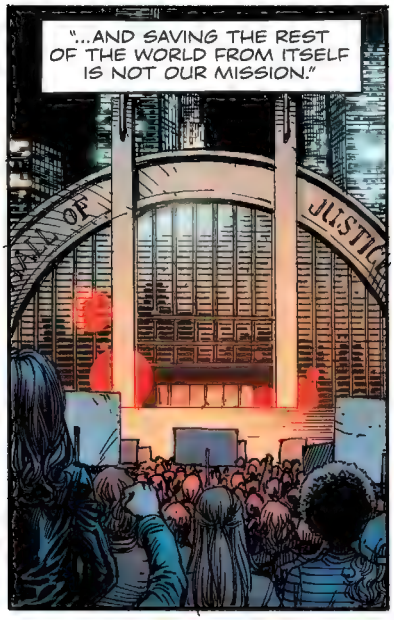
YOU NEED TO RECONSIDER YOUR POSITION ON WHETHER WE ACKNOWLEDGE PROFESSOR MARTIN STEIN'S WORK OR NOT.
IF WE TELL THE WORLD WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A PERCENTAGE OF AMERICA'S "SUPERHEROES" AND "SUPER-VILLAINS," IF WE RESTORE FAITH IN AT LEAST SOME OF THEM...
NO.

"BUT WITH OUR NUCLEAR SYSTEMS DOWN, WE HAVE NO DEFENSES IN PLACE."
"WON'T THE AMAZONS COME TO WONDER WOMAN'S AID?"


WE HAVE WARSHIPS WATCHING THE MEDITERRANEAN FOR ANY SIGNS, BUT WE DON'T KNOW THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THEIR ISLAND.
OR WHAT THEIR TRUE INTENTIONS ARE.

THE ORACLE HAS PREDICTED DIANA WILL BE SEVERELY INJURED IN BATTLE IF IT CONTINUES.
WE MUST BRING HER BACK TO THE ISLAND TO THE PURPLE LIGHT.

SHE WILL FIGHT TO STAY, BUT THIS IS FOR HER OWN PROTECTION.
WHAT OF THE IMPENDING WAR ON MAN'S WORLD?
RETRIBUTION AGAINST BLACK ADAM IS NOT OUR WAY...


"...AND SAVING THE REST OF THE WORLD FROM ITSELF IS NOT OUR MISSION."

"...PUTIN HAS GIVEN THE UNITED STATES A DEADLINE OF MIDNIGHT TONIGHT TO HAND SUPERMAN OVER."
PLEASE FLY UP, UP AND

WITH SUPPORT FOR SUPERMAN AT AN ALL-TIME LOW GIVEN HIS RECENT ACTIONS IN MOSCOW, MANY AMERICANS BELIEVE WE ARE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE MAN OF STEEL.
WIPE THAT GRIN OFF YOUR FACE, LEX.

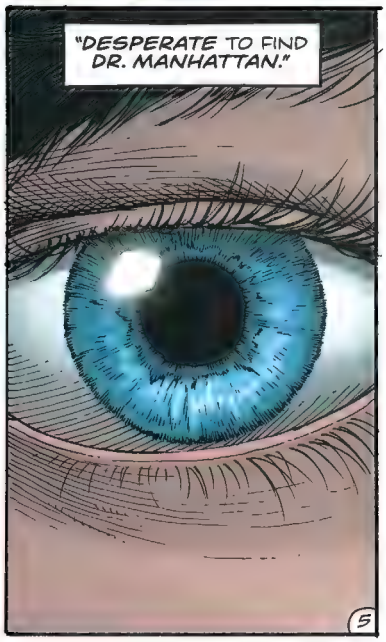
I APOLOGIZE.
YOU WERE SAYING... ABOUT THAT WOUND...
PASS
LEVEL
X

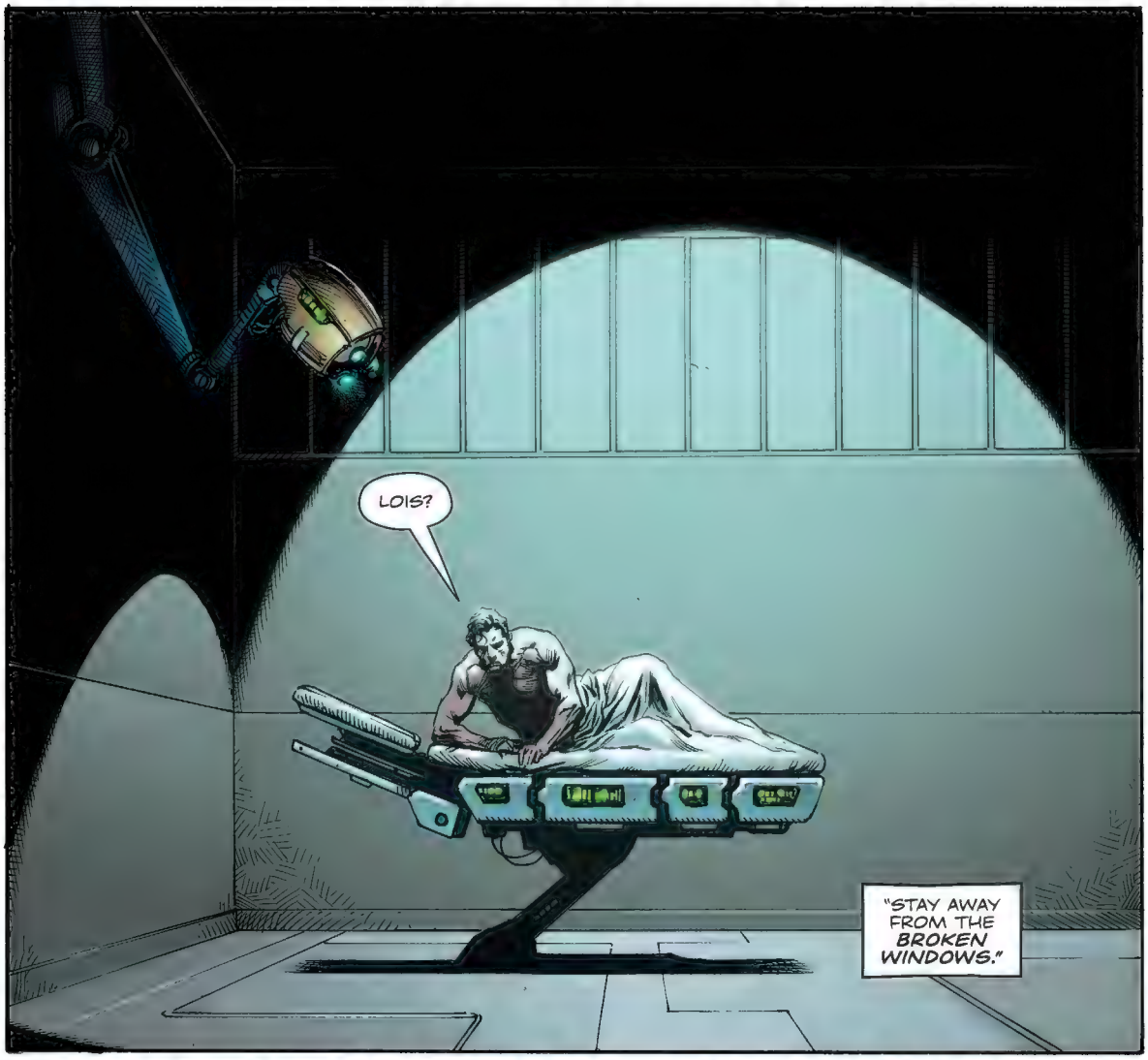
A FEW WEEKS AGO, I WAS APPROACHED BY SOMEONE CLAIMING TO BE FROM ANOTHER EARTH. NOT THE FIRST I'VE ENCOUNTERED, OF COURSE.
I WAS THEN SHOT BY SOMEONE WHO I PRESUME WAS FROM THAT SAME PARALLEL WORLD, GIVEN THEY KNEW ONE ANOTHER.

THE MAN WHO CAME TO TALK TO ME CALLED HIMSELF OZYMANDIAS.
HE BOASTED THAT HE HAD CREATED AN ALIEN INVADER, THE ILLUSION OF A COMMON ENEMY, THAT KILLED MILLIONS, BUT UNITED HIS PLANET.
IF THAT'S TRUE, HE'S MORE OF A MADMAN THAN YOU.
ULTIMATELY, HIS ACTIONS WERE EXPOSED. HIS WORLD FELL INTO NUCLEAR WAR.

"SO HE CAME HERE, SEARCHING FOR THE ONE BEING FROM HIS EARTH WHO, HE BELIEVED, HAD THE POWER TO SAVE IT.
DAILY PLANET

"HE WAS DESPERATE."
...THE BULLETIN OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS HAS MOVED THE CLOCK TO ONE MINUTE TO MIDNIGHT...


"DESPERATE TO FIND DR. MANHATTAN."



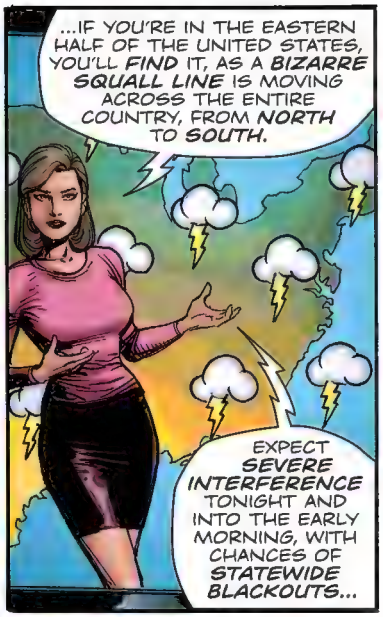

# A LIFELONG MISTAKE

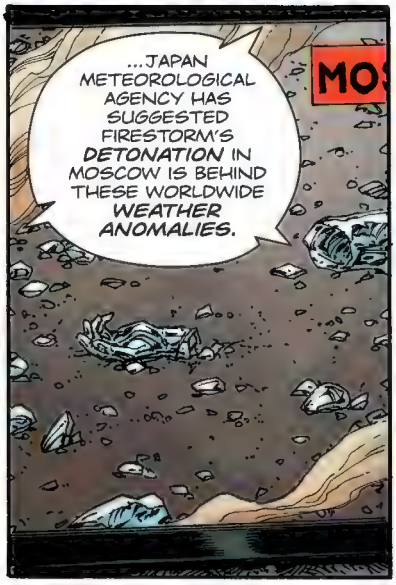
AND I DON'T WANT ANY OF YOU GOING DOWN THERE, OUT IN THE STREETS.
BUT, PERRY...
PEOPLE ARE LOSING THEIR GODDAMN MINDS, LOMBARD. THEY PUT GIL IN THE HOSPITAL. YOU STAY IN THE BULLPEN UNTIL I SAY SO.

"THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE METROPOLIS...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE GOTHAM."
"IT LOOKS LIKE EVERY CITY IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW."
"SO WHERE IS HE, CHIEF? WHERE'S SUPERMAN?"

IN REALITY, IT WAS A METAHUMAN MILITARY EXERCISE INSIDE KAHNDAQ THAT TRIGGERED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GIZA PYRAMIDS OUTSIDE CAIRO.
LIVE

"LOOKING FOR LIGHTNING?


...IF YOU'RE IN THE EASTERN HALF OF THE UNITED STATES, YOU'LL FIND IT, AS A BIZARRE SQUALL LINE IS MOVING ACROSS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, FROM NORTH TO SOUTH.
EXPECT SEVERE INTERFERENCE TONIGHT AND INTO THE EARLY MORNING, WITH CHANCES OF STATEWIDE BLACKOUTS...


...JAPAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY HAS SUGGESTED FIRESTORM'S DETONATION IN MOSCOW IS BEHIND THESE WORLDWIDE WEATHER ANOMALIES.
MO

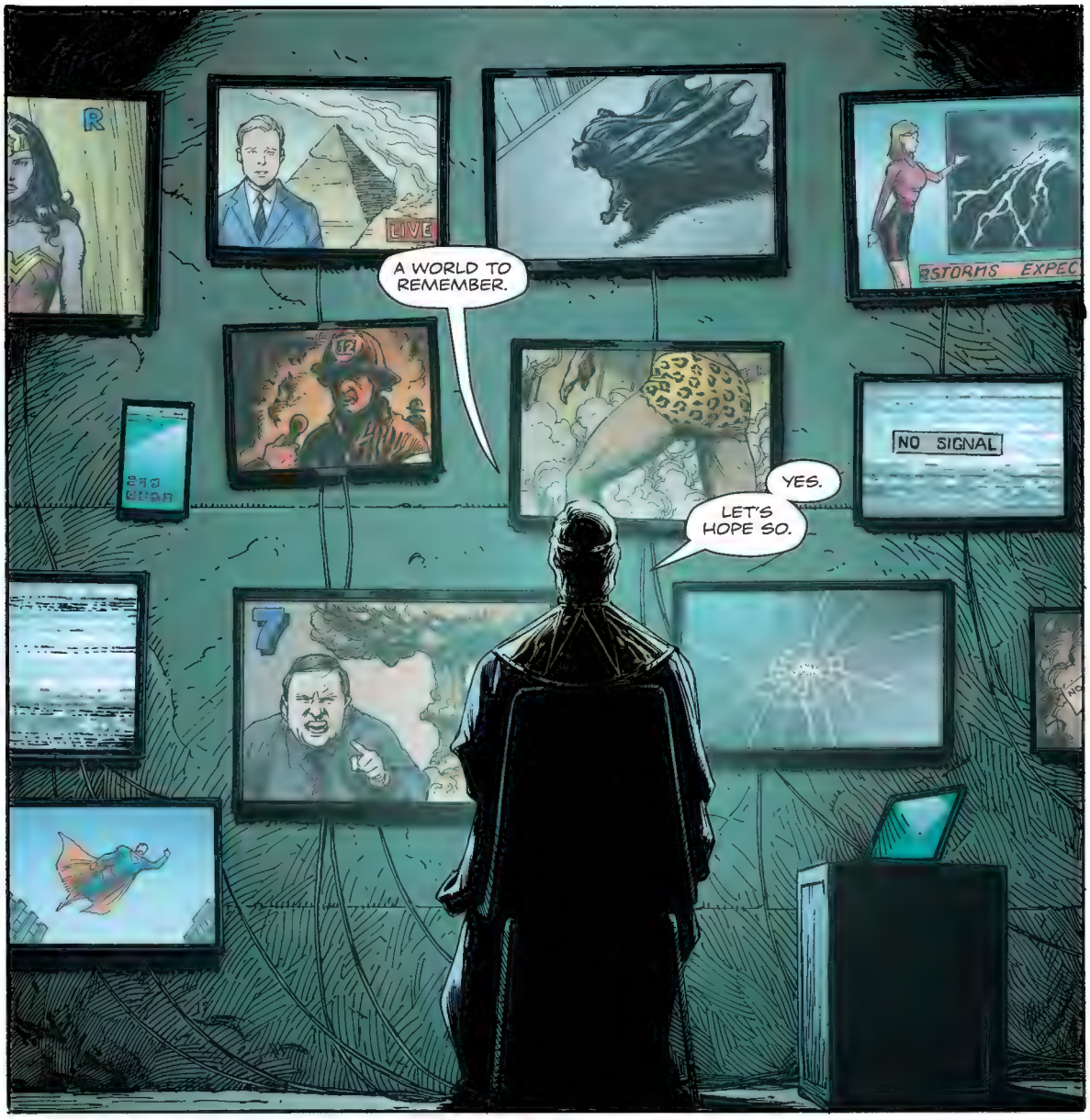
THOUGH WHERE THE EXPLOSION ORIGINATED HAS BECOME A HOTLY DEBATED TOPIC.
MMMRRRR.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE VENTURED TO MARS DAYS AGO NOW WITH DOZENS OF OTHERS, SEARCHING FOR THE ANSWER, BELIEVING IT TO BE CONNECTED TO SOME KIND OF OTHERWORLDY THREAT.
SKEPTICS CALL IT AN ACT IN AN ATTEMPT TO ABSOLVE SUPERMAN.

...SUSPECTED ARSON IN THE BURNING OF THE FLASH MUSEUM AND THE METAHUMAN-THEMED RESTAURANT CHAIN ACROSS FROM IT...

"YOU SAID IT FELT LIKE WE WERE THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHEN WE WERE ALONE. I WANTED YOU TO HAVE THAT WORLD.

A WORLD TO REMEMBER.

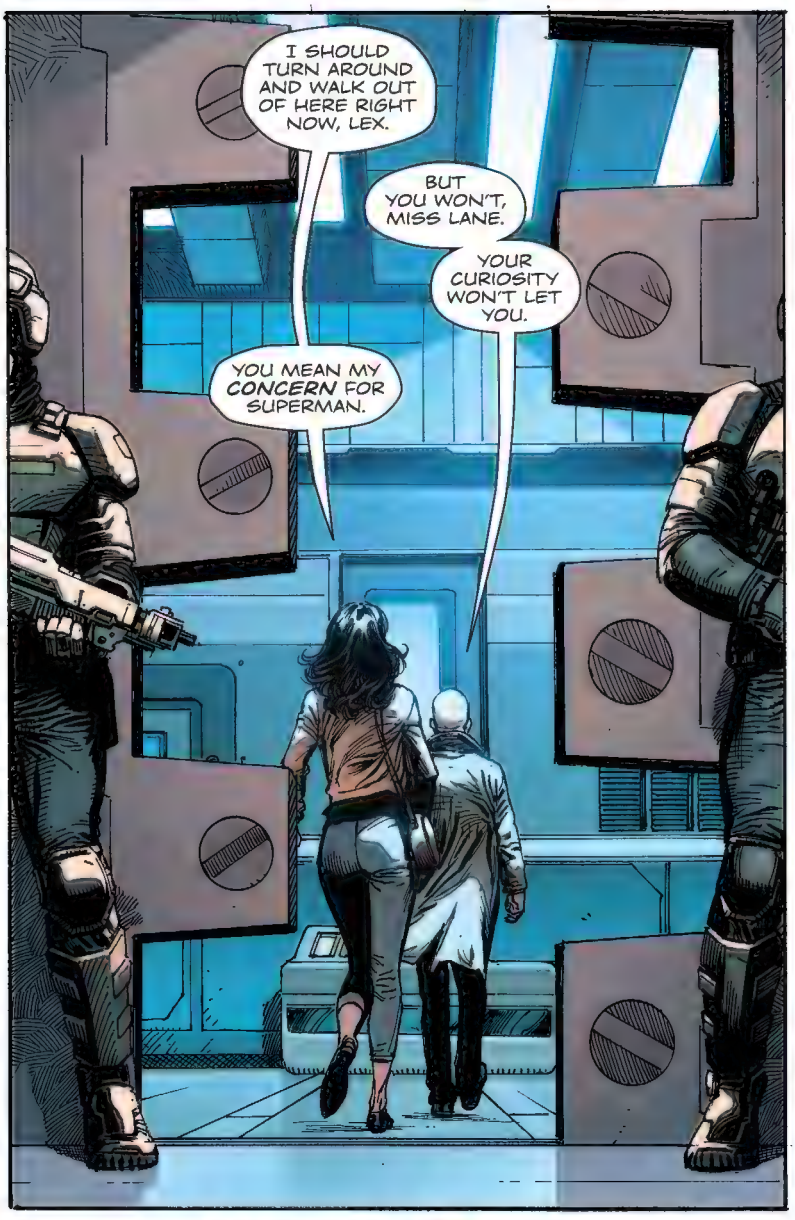

A WORLD TO REMEMBER.
YES.
LET'S HOPE SO.
LIVE
NO SIGNAL
STORMS EXPEC

THIS WORLD NEEDS A HERO.

WE NEED SOMEONE TO STOP IT FROM FALLING APART.

OH, WE ALL WARNED HIM THAT IT WASN'T GONNA HOLD...

...BUT HE LIVED IN THIS TOWN FOR EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS...
...AND THERE WASN'T NOTHIN' THAT WAS GONNA MAKE HIM LEAVE HIS LAND.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING THIS TIME?
NOTHIN' AT ALL.
AN' NOW THE WATER IS GONNA LEAVE HIS BODY SO FAR FROM HOME IT MIGHT NEVER BE FOUND...
WHATEVER IT IS, IT ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
I'VE SEEN THE WORLD'S FUTURE.
YOU AREN'T THE ONE TO SAVE IT!
YES, YES! I HEAR YOU!
ALL THESE SCREENS, I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THEM.
COME, BUBASTIS.
IT'S TIME TO DEAL WITH ONE OF OUR INQUISITIVE GUESTS.
NOT THIS MAN FROM THE PAST, WHO SITS WHIMPERING...
...BUT YOU.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT TO KNOW WHY I CAN'T READ YOUR MIND.
"THE WORLD'S ENDING AND YOU HAVE A SMUG SMILE ON YOUR FACE."


I SHOULD TURN AROUND AND WALK OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW, LEX.
BUT YOU WON'T, MISS LANE.
YOUR CURIOSITY WON'T LET YOU.
YOU MEAN MY CONCERN FOR SUPERMAN.

YOU SHOULD FEEL SPECIAL, MISS LANE.
NO OTHER HUMAN BEING ON THE PLANET HAS BEEN INSIDE THIS VAULT SAVE FOR ME.
I'LL SEND YOU A THANK-YOU CARD.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

IT IS THE MOST SECURE FACILITY I POSSESS, HOUSING THE SECRETS TO THE VERY NATURE OF OUR UNIVERSE...WHICH I WILL PROVE TO YOU...
...REVOLVES AROUND ME.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF CARVER COLMAN?
THE ACTOR?
YES.
HE WAS MURDERED IN 1954. THE CASE WAS NEVER OFFICIALLY SOLVED.

CARVER COLMAN'S ESTATE WENT UP FOR SALE. HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS IDENTIFIED AND SOLD TO COLLECTORS, TRADING HANDS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.
ONE OF THOSE ITEMS BELONGS TO ME.

THIS.
POPCO

ACCORDING TO THE INSCRIPTION ON THE BACK, I BELIEVE THE MAN'S NAME IS JON AND THE PICTURE WAS FOUND ON APRIL 18TH, 1938.
WHO ARE THEY?
AND WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT?
I'VE BEEN TRACKING STRANGE ANOMALIES SINCE I WAS A BOY.
I PROVED MANY THINGS OVER THE YEARS: THE EXISTENCE OF ALIENS, AS YOU KNOW, THE THREAT OF NIBIRU, WHICH ULTIMATELY SAVED THE WORLD FROM DESTRUCTION.
BUT THE STORY BEHIND THIS PICTURE HAS ELUDED ME.
"TWO YEARS AGO, I BEGAN TRACKING ABNORMAL CHRONAL ENERGY SPIKES, WHICH HAD BEEN INCREASING IN BOTH POWER AND FREQUENCY, LEADING ME TO BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING WAS TRYING TO COME INTO OUR UNIVERSE FROM BEYOND."
EVERY SECOND WAS A GIFT.
"I HEARD A WARNING, ABOUT SOMEONE WHO HAD ALTERED REALITY."
HOW COULD I EVER FORGET YOU?
"BUT THE FLASHES WERE NOT THE SOURCE OF THE ANOMALY I WAS TRACKING.
"LYING THERE, IN THE GRASS...
"...WAS A PHOTOGRAPH."
THIS PICTURE IS CONNECTED TO THE REBIRTH OF KID FLASH?
IN A WAY, IT IS.
I FOUND "CHRONAL DEBRIS" IN THE AREA, INCLUDING THE FILM I SENT YOU, ALONG WITH OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS CONNECTED TO WALLY WEST.
EVIDENCE THAT OUR REALITY HAD BEEN ALTERED.
BUT IT WAS THIS PHOTOGRAPH THAT WAS THE TRUE ANOMALY.
OH MY GOD.
11

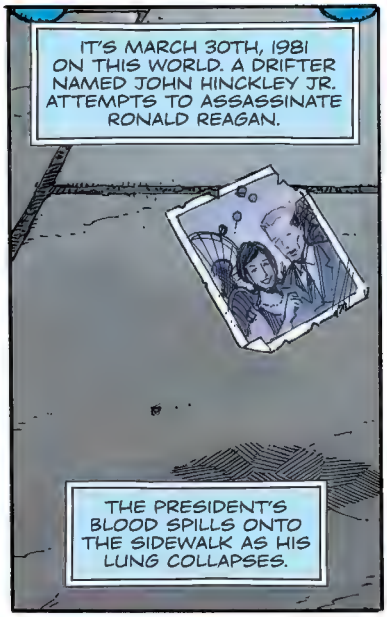
I'VE FOUND THEM ALL OVER AMERICA, MOSTLY. ALTHOUGH ONE WAS RECOVERED BY MY TEAM IN THE CONGO ONLY DAYS AGO.
EACH ONE IS ABSOLUTEY IDENTICAL IN EVERY WAY.
FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER, THE ONE IN YOUR HAND WAS THE FIRST. BACK IN 1938. BUT IF YOU LOOK AT "JON'S" SUIT, IT COMES FROM A LATER ERA. THE '50'S, IT APPEARS.

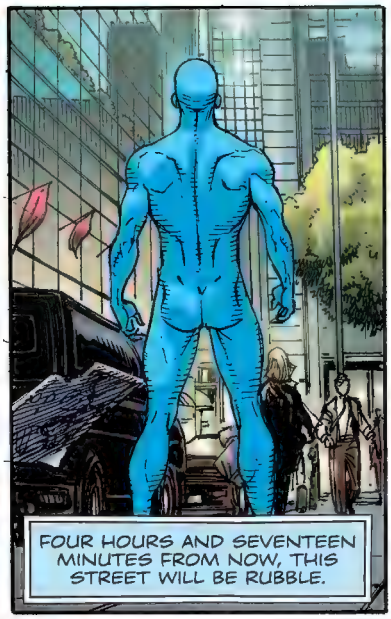
YOU'RE SAYING THAT THESE PHOTOS ARE TRAVELING THROUGH TIME?

NOT THESE PHOTOS, MISS LANE. THESE PHOTOS APPEAR TO BE... LEFT BEHIND BY SOMEONE. LIKE A TRAIL OF BREAD CRUMBS DROPPED ACROSS MOST OF THE LAST CENTURY AND INTO THIS ONE.
WHY WOULD SOMEONE CREATE THESE?

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE AWARE OF IT, MISS LANE.

"BUT WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER BEING I'VE ENCOUNTERED."
AS THE END APPROACHES, THINGS COME INTO FOCUS.


IT'S MARCH 30TH, 1981 ON THIS WORLD. A DRIFTER NAMED JOHN HINCKLEY JR. ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE RONALD REAGAN.
THE PRESIDENT'S BLOOD SPILLS ONTO THE SIDEWALK AS HIS LUNG COLLAPSES.


FOUR HOURS AND SEVENTEEN MINUTES FROM NOW, THIS STREET WILL BE RUBBLE.

AND I WILL SPEAK WITH SUPERMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME.

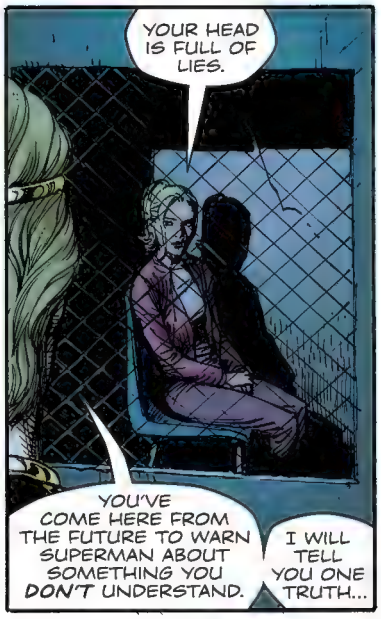
HANDS IN THE AIR!

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, I'M ASKING YOU TO COME QUIETLY.
I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS.

PLEASE.
"SUPERMAN WILL STOP YOU."

SUPERMAN DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I EXIST, IMRA.
STORAGE 4

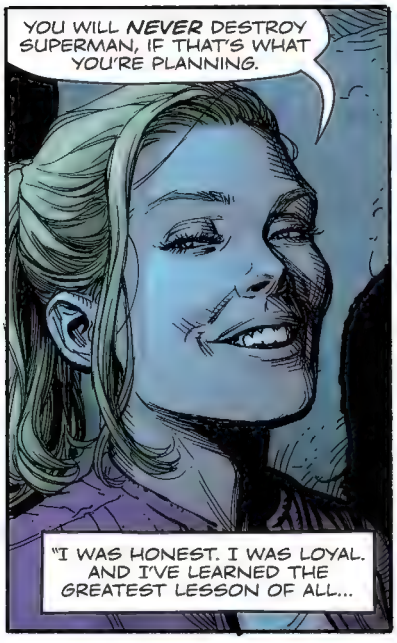
IF THE PRESIDENT HAS AN ISSUE WITH ME, I'LL GO TO HIM TO DISCUSS IT.
"I CAN READ YOUR MIND, BUT I CAN'T FIND THE TRUTH.


YOUR HEAD IS FULL OF LIES.
YOU'VE COME HERE FROM THE FUTURE TO WARN SUPERMAN ABOUT SOMETHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I WILL TELL YOU ONE TRUTH...

"YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO SEE SUPERMAN AGAIN."

YOU LEAVE HER ALONE!
DON'T YOU TOUCH HER!

...FIRST SIGHTING OF SUPERMAN SINCE HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRAGEDY IN MOSCOW.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
"I'LL TELL YOU A TRUTH NOW, ADRIAN."


YOU WILL NEVER DESTROY SUPERMAN, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING.
"I WAS HONEST. I WAS LOYAL. AND I'VE LEARNED THE GREATEST LESSON OF ALL...

IT'S NOT WHO WINS OR LOSES. IT'S HOW YOU PLAYED THE GAME.
The End

OH.
I'M COUNTING ON HIM SURVIVING WHATEVER COMES HIS WAY.

"I'M DR. MALCOLM LONG."
WHAT'D YOU DO, DR. LONG, DRAW THE SHORT STRAW?
HE VOLUNTEERED TO TALK TO KOVACS.
I THINK THERE'S HOPE FOR WALTER, GENTLEMEN.
DAD?!
IF YOU COULD PLEASE MAKE SURE I'M NOT DISTURBED.
HE SENT TWO POLICE OFFICERS TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM AND WHO KNOWS HOW MANY FRIENDS OF THESE INMATES TO THE MORGUE.
YOU BETTER WORK FAST, DOC.
DAD, DON'T TALK TO HIM!
DON'T GO IN THERE!
AAAA!!IIEEEEE!
16

DAD!
REGGIE?
RORSCHACH?
NOT RUH-RORSCHACH!
KOVACS WAS MONSTER!
SEE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE.
I SEE A WORLD DYING.
:KK:
LUH-LET G-GO.

AAAAHHHHH!

DO YOU REMEMBER ME? I'M ALFRED PENNYWORTH.
YOU LIKED MY COOKING.
:HH.:
I READ THE JOURNAL.
I'M SORRY WE DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU BEFORE, BUT WE DO NOW.

BRUCE ASKED ME TO FIND YOU. TO HELP US LOCATE OZYMANDIAS SO WE CAN PROVE SUPERMAN'S INNOCENT.
SO WE CAN STOP HIM FROM DOING TO OUR WORLD WHAT HE DID TO YOURS.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HUNGRY.

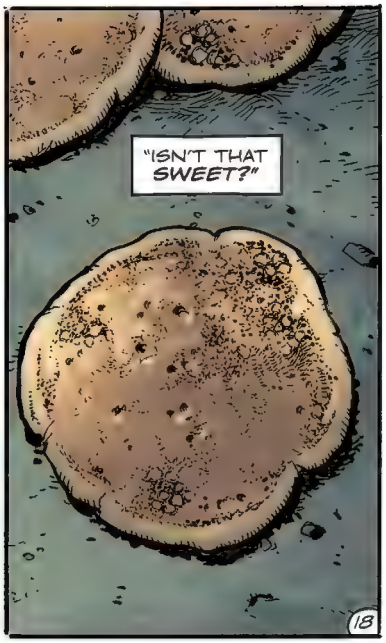
PUT ME IN PRISON.
LEFT ME TO ROT.

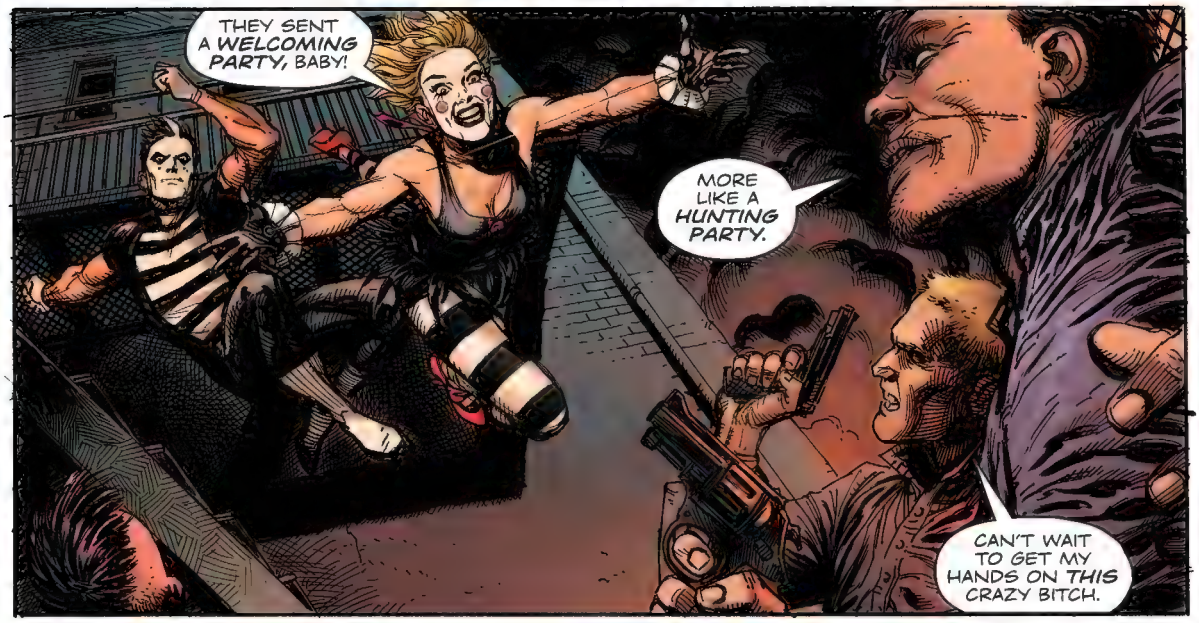
MAGGOTS TWISTING IN FOOD.
PLEASE, COME WITH ME. WE NEED RORSCHACH.

AAAARRRRR!

NOT RORSCHACH!

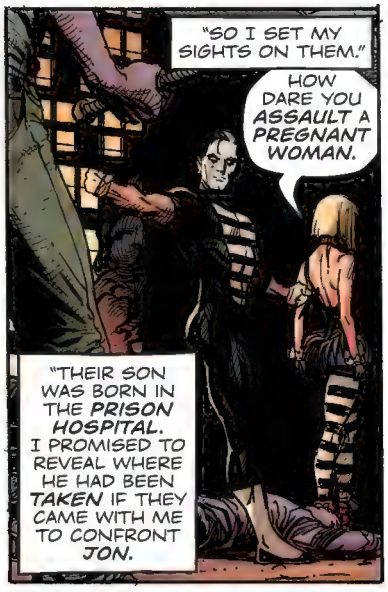
WAIT! PLEASE!
WE WANT TO HELP YOU!


"ISN'T THAT SWEET?"
18


THEY SENT A WELCOMING PARTY, BABY!
MORE LIKE A HUNTING PARTY.
CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THIS CRAZY BITCH.

GGGAAAHH!
WHAT HANDS?

MY ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO FIND JON AND CONVINCE HIM TO RETURN TO OUR EARTH, SO THAT HE MIGHT SAVE IT FROM NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION.
BUT I KNEW AFTER OUR DISCUSSION BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED, JON WOULD NEVER LISTEN TO ME.

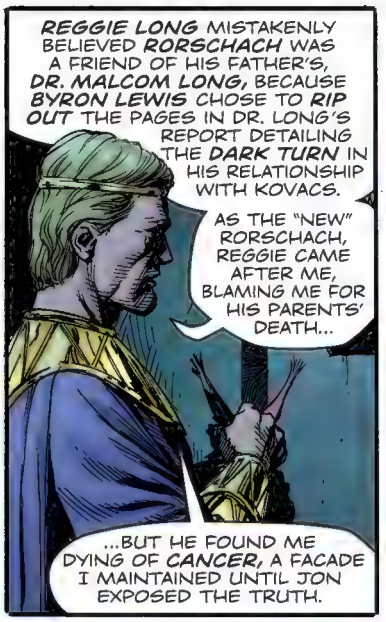

"SO I SET MY SIGHTS ON THEM."
HOW DARE YOU ASSAULT A PREGNANT WOMAN.
"THEIR SON WAS BORN IN THE PRISON HOSPITAL. I PROMISED TO REVEAL WHERE HE HAD BEEN TAKEN IF THEY CAME WITH ME TO CONFRONT JON.

"I PULLED THEIR PROVERBIAL STRINGS."
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU HOLDIN'?

NNFFF

I REQUIRED THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR PAST EXPERIENCE WITH DR. MANHATTAN.
NNYYAAA!
"DON'T KILL HIM!
YOU DON'T KILL HIM WITHOUT KILLING ME.
"JON WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR INCARCERATION."
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
"EVERYONE BELIEVED HE HAD HESITATED TO KILL MARIONETTE BECAUSE SHE WAS PREGNANT.
"BUT I KNEW, IN THE PAST, JON WATCHED THE COMEDIAN SHOOT AND KILL A PREGNANT WOMAN AND HAD DONE NOTHING.
"JON REVEALED TO ME, OVER THE YEARS, THAT HE HAD SEEN MARIONETTE'S CHILD'S FUTURE...
"THIS BOY WOULD BE ADOPTED BY A COUPLE AND HE WOULD BRING INCREDIBLE JOY TO A WOMAN WHO HAD BEEN VERY IMPORTANT TO JON AT ONE TIME IN HIS LIFE.
GOOD MORNING, MRS. HOLLIS!
HI, MOM!
"I HOPED UPON SEEING MARIONETTE, JON WOULD BE REMINDED OF THE FAMILY HE CHOSE TO PROTECT BY GRANTING MARIONETTE MERCY SHE MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT DESERVE."

AND YOU BROKE THEM OUT OF PRISON...
NOT ME. MY OTHER PUPPET. WHO WAS EASIER TO MANIPULATE THAN MARIONETTE AND MIME.


REGGIE LONG MISTAKENLY BELIEVED RORSCHACH WAS A FRIEND OF HIS FATHER'S, DR. MALCOM LONG, BECAUSE BYRON LEWIS CHOSE TO RIP OUT THE PAGES IN DR. LONG'S REPORT DETAILING THE DARK TURN IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH KOVACS.
AS THE "NEW" RORSCHACH, REGGIE CAME AFTER ME, BLAMING ME FOR HIS PARENTS' DEATH...
...BUT HE FOUND ME DYING OF CANCER, A FACADE I MAINTAINED UNTIL JON EXPOSED THE TRUTH.

"REGGIE BELIEVED I WAS OVERWHELMED WITH GUILT AND SHAME OVER THE TRAGEDY IN NEW YORK.

"HE GATHERED MARIONETTE AND MIME, AND ONCE I REENGINEERED NITE OWL'S SHIP..."
"YOU TURNED IT INTO A TIME SPHERE."
"WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, IT LOCKED ONTO JON'S SIGNAL...

"...AND AS THE MISSILES FELL AROUND US...

"...WE MADE OUR WAY TO THIS UNIVERSE.

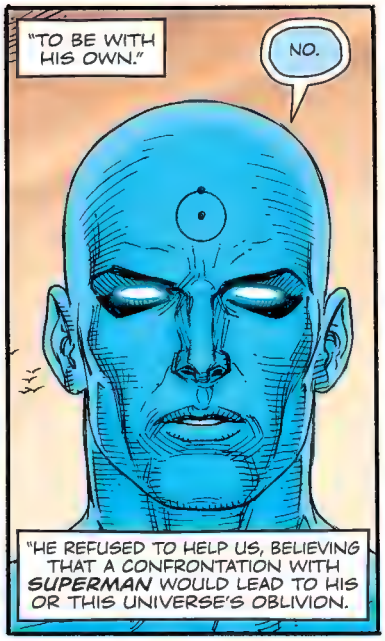
POOR REGGIE.
HE HAD NO IDEA HE WAS WEARING THE MASK OF THE MAN THAT DESTROYED HIS PARENTS.

"WORKING FOR THE MAN WHO MANIPULATED HIM AS BYRON UNKNOWINGLY DID... COMING TO THIS STRANGE, COLORFUL WORLD.
"IT WAS HERE THAT I REALIZED JON HAD JOURNEYED TO SOMEPLACE SPECIAL.

"AND HORRIFYING."

"A WORLD OF EXTREMES IMPOSSIBLE TO RECONCILE.
"ONE FULL OF HOPE... AND AT THE SAME TIME DESPAIR.

"A SCHIZOPHRENIC SOCIETY OVERRUN WITH SUPER-POWERS AND COSTUMES.
LOCK UP!
"BUT IT WAS CLEAR WHY JON HAD VENTURED HERE.

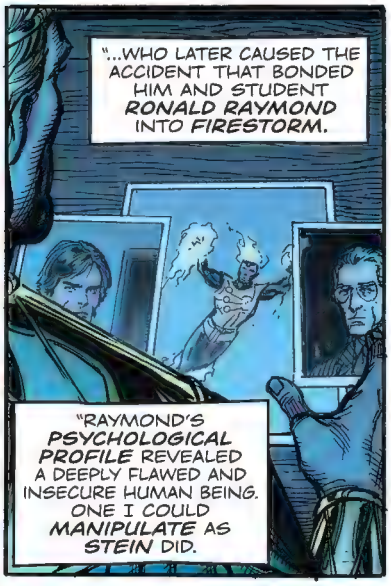

"TO BE WITH HIS OWN."
NO.
"HE REFUSED TO HELP US, BELIEVING THAT A CONFRONTATION WITH SUPERMAN WOULD LEAD TO HIS OR THIS UNIVERSE'S OBLIVION.

SO I CAME UP WITH A NEW PLAN.
ONE TO SAVE BOTH WORLDS.

"THE WORLD'S BELIEF IN SUPERMAN WAS HOLDING IT TOGETHER LIKE STRING AND CHEWING GUM.

IN ORDER FOR THINGS TO CHANGE, THEY MUST HIT ROCK BOTTOM.
SO WHAT IF I COULD TURN THE WORLD AGAINST SUPERMAN?

"IN MY SEARCH, I DISCOVERED THE SUPERMEN THEORY TO BE, IN FACT, PARTIALLY TRUE.
"AFTER SUPERMAN'S ARRIVAL, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD BEGUN EXPERIMENTING IN AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE ITS OWN METAHUMANS.
"THESE CONFIDENTIAL PROGRAMS WERE LED BY PROFESSOR MARTIN STEIN...


"...WHO LATER CAUSED THE ACCIDENT THAT BONDED HIM AND STUDENT RONALD RAYMOND INTO FIRESTORM.
"RAYMOND'S PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE REVEALED A DEEPLY FLAWED AND INSECURE HUMAN BEING. ONE I COULD MANIPULATE AS STEIN DID.

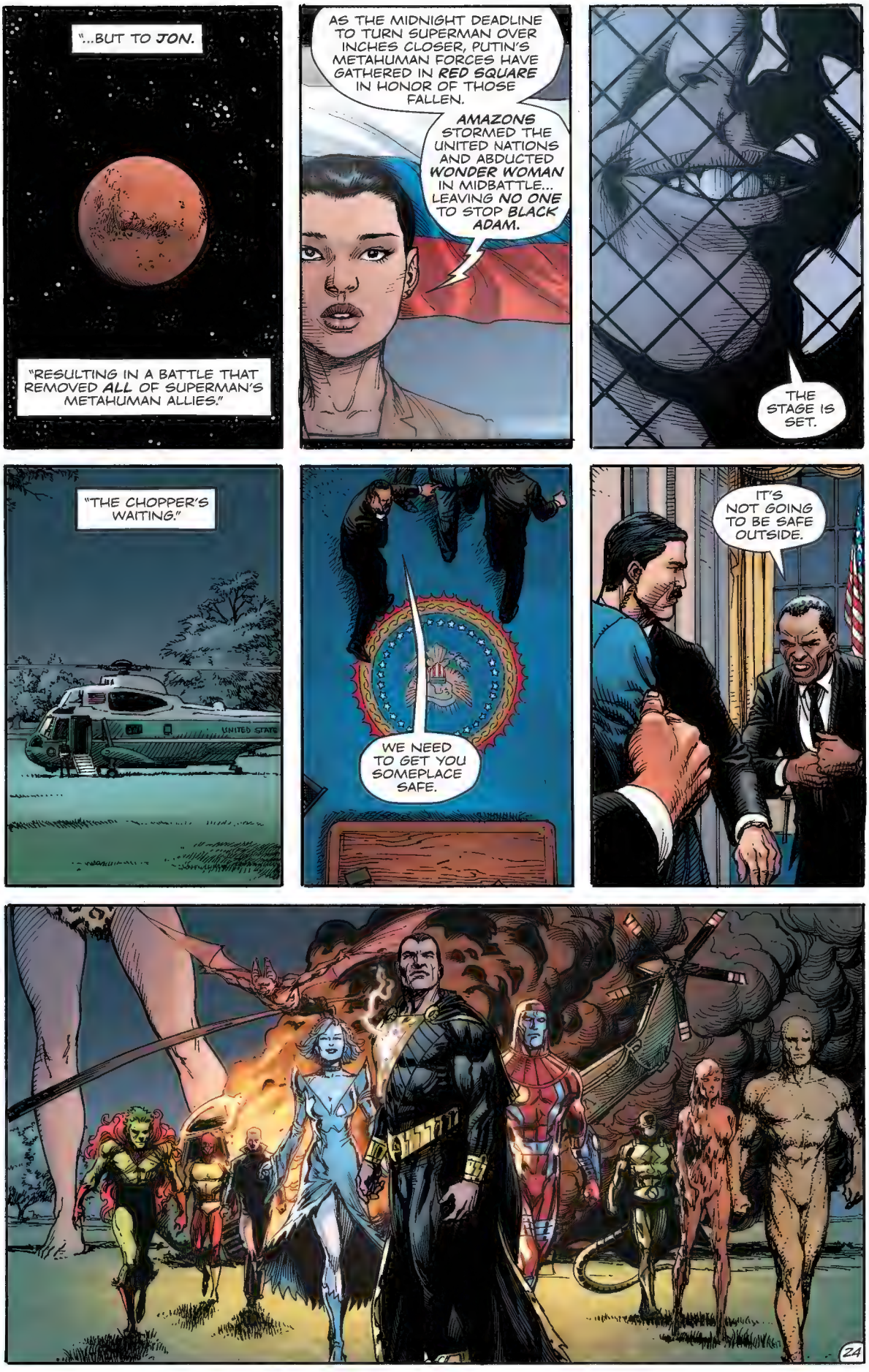
"AFTER I LEAKED THIS INFORMATION TO FIRESTORM'S RUSSIAN COUNTERPART, POZHAR, I PLACED RAYMOND UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM THE MEDIA.
I TOLD YOU I DON'T CARE WHAT POZHAR SAYS! HE'S A LIAR!
AND I'LL SHOVE IT DOWN HIS THROAT!

"ULTIMATELY, SUPERMAN WENT TO MOSCOW TO INTERVENE, DEFENDING FIRESTORM IN HOPES HE MIGHT SAVE LIVES.

THEN BUBASTIS HELPED ME CREATE A LITTLE... DETONATION.

"PEOPLE DIED. SUPERMAN WAS BLAMED FOR PROTECTING FIRESTORM.

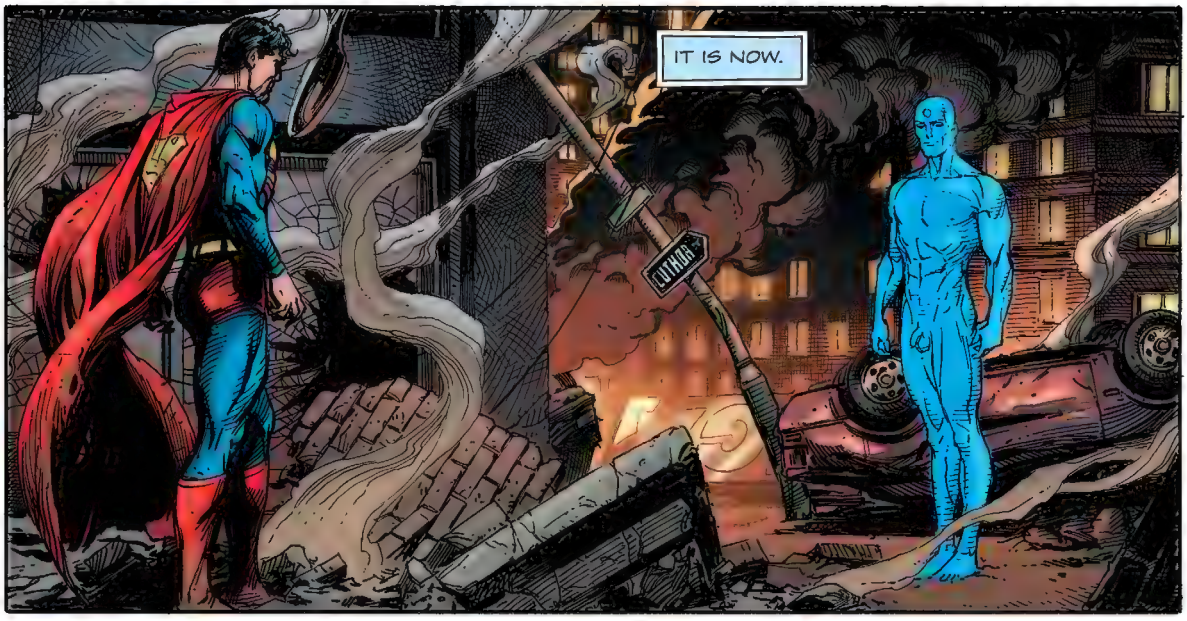
BUT I WANTED THE METAHUMANS WHO WOULD NO DOUBT INVESTIGATE TO QUICKLY LEARN THE EXPLOSION WAS NOT FIRESTORM.
THE HEROES OF THIS EARTH WOULD THEN TRACE THIS ENERGY NOT BACK TO ME AND BUBASTIS...

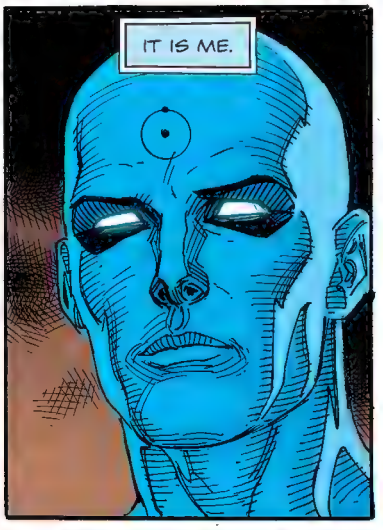

"...BUT TO JON.
"RESULTING IN A BATTLE THAT REMOVED ALL OF SUPERMAN'S METAHUMAN ALLIES."
AS THE MIDNIGHT DEADLINE TO TURN SUPERMAN OVER INCHES CLOSER, PUTIN'S METAHUMAN FORCES HAVE GATHERED IN RED SQUARE IN HONOR OF THOSE FALLEN.
AMAZONS STORMED THE UNITED NATIONS AND ABDUCTED WONDER WOMAN IN MIDBATTLE... LEAVING NO ONE TO STOP BLACK ADAM.
THE STAGE IS SET.
"THE CHOPPER'S WAITING."
UNITED STATE
WE NEED TO GET YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE SAFE OUTSIDE.
24

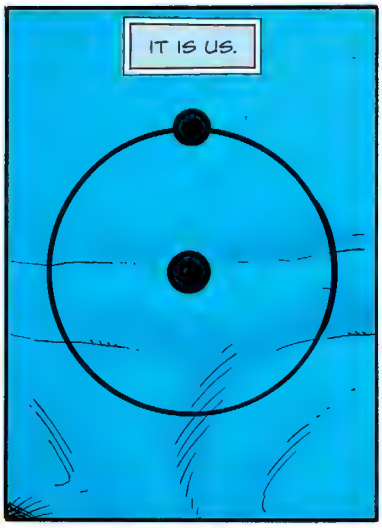
...ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN, LIGHTNING STORMS APPARENTLY CREATED TO COVER THEIR ARRIVAL...
I HAVE A MESSAGE TO ALL METAHUMANS EVERYWHERE. THE REVOLUTION IS NOW. COME JOIN ME.
IT IS TIME TO FREE THIS WORLD FROM ENSLAVEMENT.
I'M STILL CATCHING UP, BUT I KNOW ENOUGH TO KNOW THIS HAS GONE TOO FAR.
YOU HAVE ONE CHANCE TO STAND ASIDE, SUPERMAN.
...JOINED BY WHAT APPEAR TO BE OTHER METAHUMANS WHO HAVE BEEN CONNECTED TO THE SUPERMEN THEORY...
"WHATEVER YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, SUPERMAN WILL STOP IT."
I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE.
IT EXISTS BECAUSE OF SUPERMAN.
YES, WELL, IF SUPERMAN IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU, TO YOUR EXISTENCE, LET ME ASK YOU ONE THING, SATURN GIRL.
DOES SUPERMAN REMEMBER YOU?
...
NO.
25

NO...WHAT'S HAPPENING...
I WOULD THEORIZE THAT YOU'RE NO LONGER PART OF THIS TIMELINE.
YOU JUST DIDN'T REALIZE IT.
LONG... LIVE...
OUR WORLDS.
THIS ONE WILL BECOME MY TOMB.
BUT THAT TOMB WILL BE A MONUMENT.
OH, QUIT CRYING, OLD MAN.
YOU'RE FROM THE PAST.
AND THE PAST WON'T BE ERASED.

IN SIX SECONDS, SUPERMAN WILL SEE ME.
FIVE.
HAHAHAHA!
FOUR.
THREE.
TWO.
PENNSYLVA
ONE.





I am not afraid to make a mistake, even a great mistake, a lifelong mistake and perhaps as long as eternity too.

—James Joyce
*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

LEXCORP

**ITEM #1** Originally found in the home of Carver Colman, believed to have been in his possession since April 18th, 1938. The man in the photo is known simply as "Jon."

## LEXCORP

**ITEM #2** Originally found on March 19th, 1952, at the RKO Pantages Theater in Hollywood, California. The photograph was found in Carver Colman's dressing room following the 25th Academy Awards. Believing it to be a collector's item, a custodian sold it to a Hollywood collectibles shop where it remained until it was located by Lexcorp.

**ITEM #3** Originally found in a train wreck in July of 1940 outside of Gotham. It was left unclaimed with other personal items, eventually finding its way to a second-hand store, where it was lost between the pages of a used copy of *Walden Two* by B.F. Skinner until it was located by Lexcorp.

**ITEM #4** Originally found in a booth on April 18th, 1955, in Arnold's Diner in Hollywood, California. The photograph was put up on the wall, where it hung alongside other patron photos until it was located by Lexcorp.

**ITEM #5** Originally found in November of 1940 in a brownstone in Battery Park, Manhattan. The photograph was given to the brownstone's former owner, Wesley Dodds. Dodds is said to have studied the photograph with great interest, noting that its fashions appeared "out of time." He claimed to dream about the man in it, calling him "Dr. Manhattan." He kept it until his death in 1986. It was located in an antique shop by Lexcorp, hidden inside one of Dodds's old trunks.

**ITEM #6** Originally found in a cemetery in Smallville, Kansas, in 1956, it was brought to the local library in hopes that its owner may recover it. It remained there until it was located by Lexcorp.

**ITEM #7** Originally found in a field in Smallville, Kansas, in 1986, most likely by a farmhand, it was apparently mistakenly put into a photo album belonging to the Hubbards, where it remained until it was located by Lexcorp.

**ITEM #8** Recently found by Lexcorp in Arkham Asylum following a riot and subsequent mass breakout in the cell of an unknown prisoner known only as John Doe, 5'8", African-American. Brought in by Batman.

**ITEM #9** Tracked down and located by Lexcorp last week. Found in the Congo Basin. Believe this to be a recent creation as the energy signature was only registered two weeks ago.

**ITEM #10** Discovered in the New Beverly Cinema during a Nathaniel Dusk movie marathon, which starred Carver Colman. Evidence points to the obvious: the being had some kind of relationship or infatuation with the actor, romantic or otherwise.

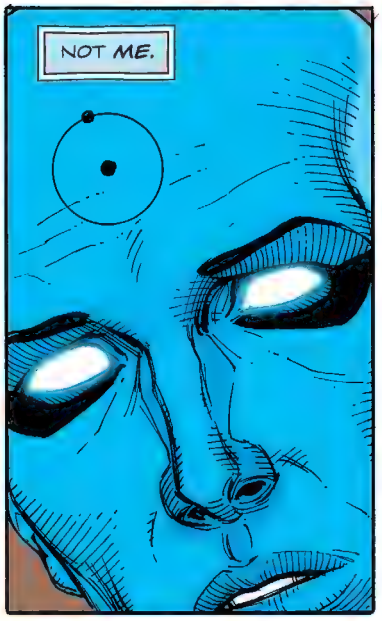
**ITEM #11** Additional energy readings point to dozens of new photographs, their appearance increasing at an alarming speed. The latest to be discovered was in one of the Joker's safe houses, a former warehouse on the East Side.

LEXCORP

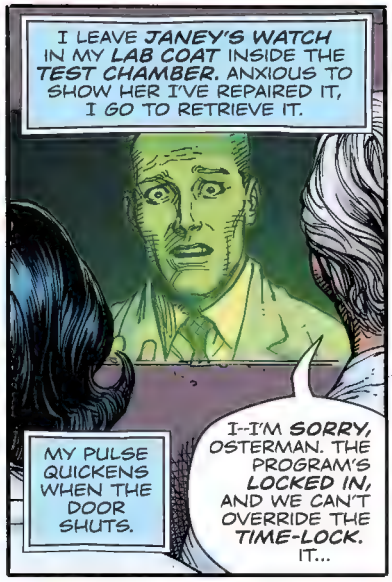
**ITEM #12** Found among several other items in Central City at the site of the first discovery of "Jon's" photograph, this image is of the Flash and a second Flash, visually the same as the one found in the film reel of the Justice Society of America, recovered the same day at the same time. I believe it to be chronal debris from past lives or alternate histories of our world that no longer exist. In conclusion, the being I am tracking—this "Jon"—I believe him to be the cause of our revisionist reality, or at least to have knowledge of that cause.

I believe our universe is ever-evolving, that I have lived past lives—alongside Superman—and am locked in an endless battle with him that I might never win, nor will he. My goal is simple: find "Jon" and learn what I can about this endless loop between Superman and myself, and close it.

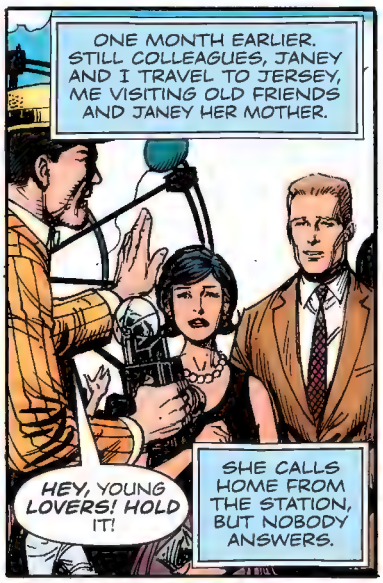
I WAS WRONG...
EVERYTHING ENDS.
NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.
NOT HOPE.


NOT ME.

IT IS AUGUST, 1959. I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE AND GROWN DISTRACTED.
NO! NO, NO, NO!

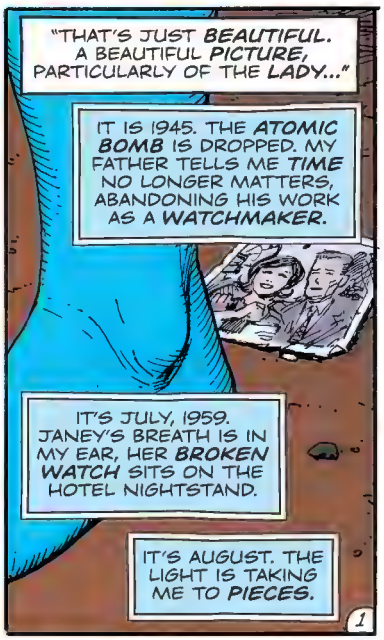

I LEAVE JANEY'S WATCH IN MY LAB COAT INSIDE THE TEST CHAMBER. ANXIOUS TO SHOW HER I'VE REPAIRED IT, I GO TO RETRIEVE IT.
MY PULSE QUICKENS WHEN THE DOOR SHUTS.
I--I'M SORRY, OSTERMAN. THE PROGRAM'S LOCKED IN, AND WE CAN'T OVERRIDE THE TIME-LOCK. IT...

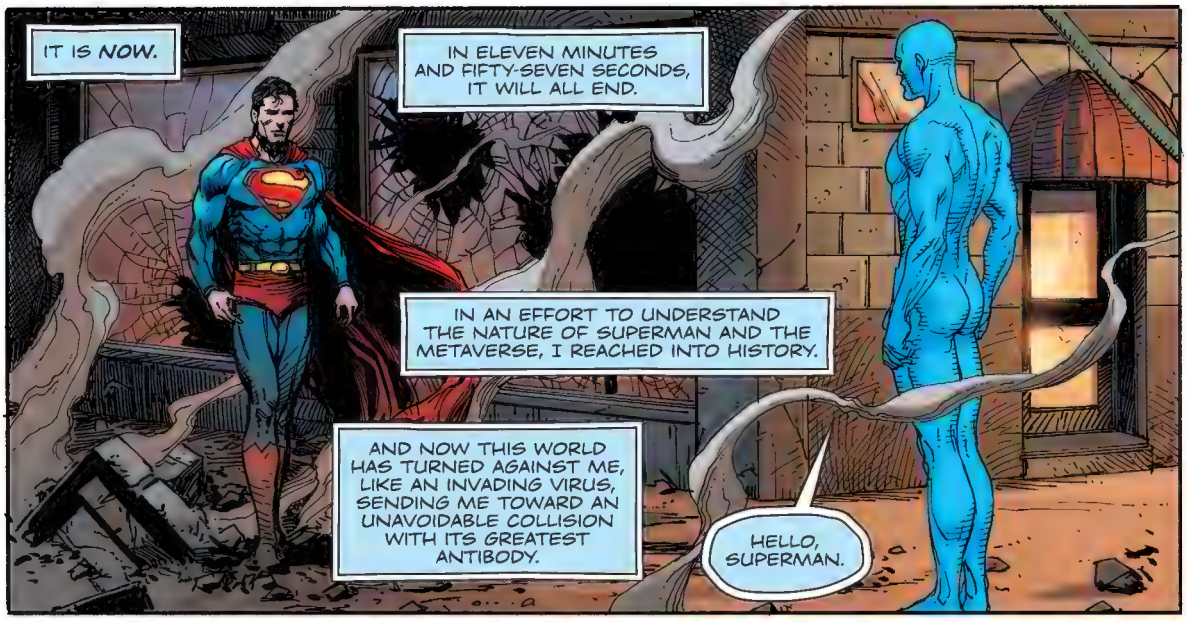
...IT'S A SAFETY FEATURE.
OH, GOD.


ONE MONTH EARLIER. STILL COLLEAGUES, JANEY AND I TRAVEL TO JERSEY, ME VISITING OLD FRIENDS AND JANEY HER MOTHER.
HEY, YOUNG LOVERS! HOLD IT!
SHE CALLS HOME FROM THE STATION, BUT NOBODY ANSWERS.

WE VISIT THE AMUSEMENT PARK, KILLING TIME UNTIL HER MOTHER RETURNS.
BUT WE'RE NOT...

TWELVE MINUTES LATER, JANEY'S WATCHBAND SNAPS. BEFORE I CAN PICK IT UP, A FAT MAN STEPS UPON IT. I TELL HER I CAN FIX IT.
THERE!

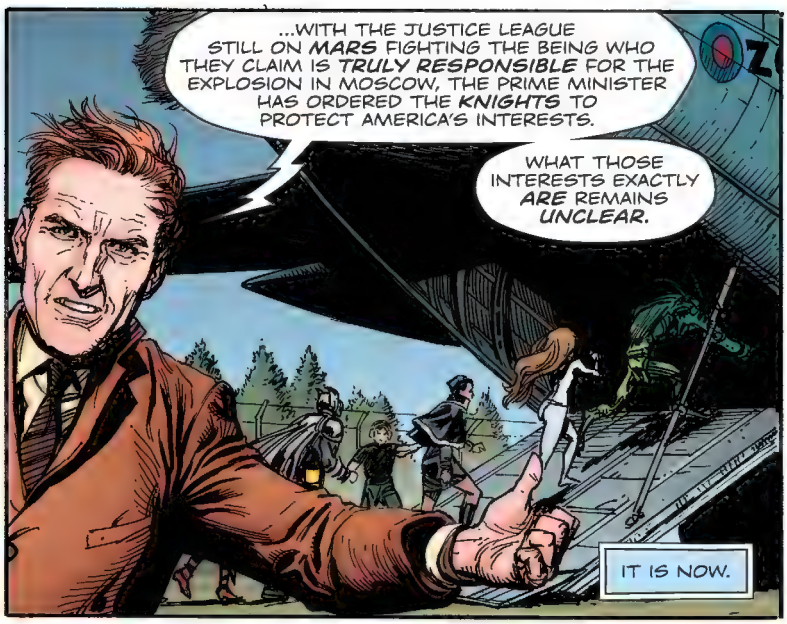

"THAT'S JUST BEAUTIFUL. A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE, PARTICULARLY OF THE LADY..."
IT IS 1945. THE ATOMIC BOMB IS DROPPED. MY FATHER TELLS ME TIME NO LONGER MATTERS, ABANDONING HIS WORK AS A WATCHMAKER.
IT'S JULY, 1959. JANEY'S BREATH IS IN MY EAR, HER BROKEN WATCH SITS ON THE HOTEL NIGHTSTAND.
IT'S AUGUST. THE LIGHT IS TAKING ME TO PIECES.
1


IT IS NOW.
IN ELEVEN MINUTES AND FIFTY-SEVEN SECONDS, IT WILL ALL END.
IN AN EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF SUPERMAN AND THE METAVERSE, I REACHED INTO HISTORY.
AND NOW THIS WORLD HAS TURNED AGAINST ME, LIKE AN INVADING VIRUS, SENDING ME TOWARD AN UNAVOIDABLE COLLISION WITH ITS GREATEST ANTIBODY.
HELLO, SUPERMAN.

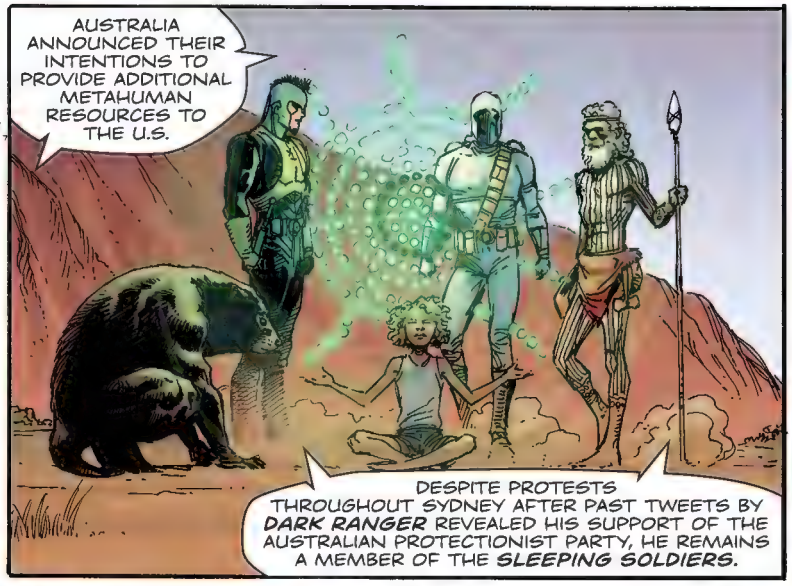
# DISCOURAGED OF MAN

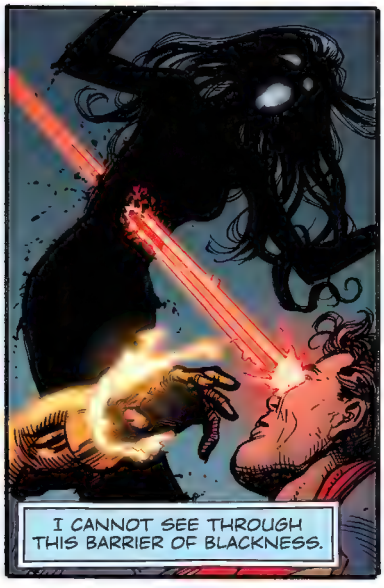
YOU MUST ANSWER FOR YOUR CRIMES AGAINST THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE...
AND FACE THE PARENTS AND CHILDREN OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE MOSCOW MASSACRE.
MARKOVIA STANDS WITH THEM, SUPERMAN. DO THE RIGHT THING.
COME WITH US.

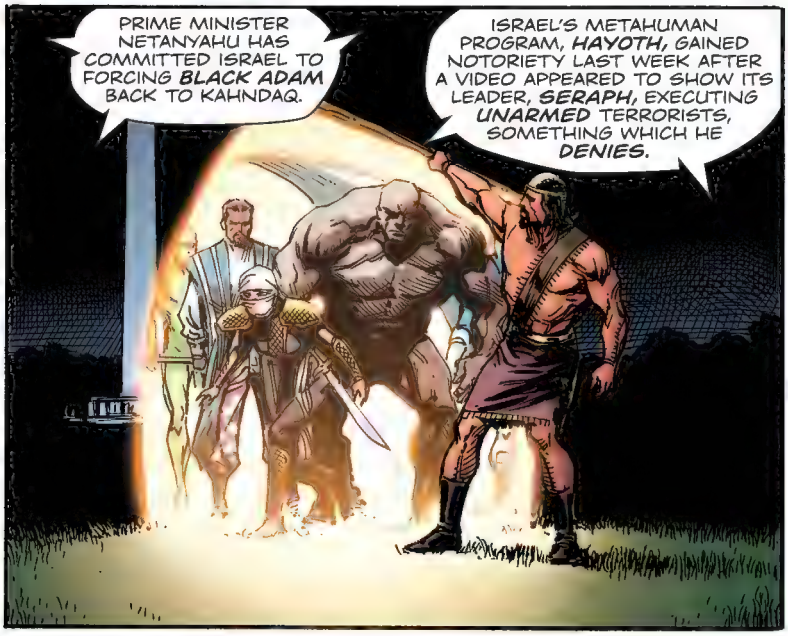
YOU HAVE DONE MUCH GOOD IN THE WORLD, SUPERMAN...
BUT THAT CANNOT EXCUSE THE ROLE YOU PLAYED IN THE ATTACK THAT LEFT SCORES OF MY PEOPLE DEAD.
POZHAR...
SUPERMAN WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE...
BUT KAHNDAQ WILL BE THE NATION THAT DOES IT.
FIGHT NOT FOR A GOVERNMENT THAT WANTS TO CONTROL YOU BECAUSE IT FEARS YOU.
JOIN ME AND MY NATION AND BE FREE.
I WOULD NEVER BETRAY MY HOMELAND.
IT IS NOVEMBER 2ND, 1985. I WATCH LAURIE HOLD DANIEL DREIBERG CLOSE, HER MASCARA MIXED WITH TEARS, HIS NAKED SKIN PROVIDING HER COMFORT.
IT'S OCTOBER, 1985. I DROP THE PHOTOGRAPH ON MARS, LEAVING IT ALL BEHIND.
IT IS APRIL 18TH, 1938. SUPERMAN HOLDS A CAR OVER HIS HEAD.
THERE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THE AREA.
SINCE WHEN HAS THAT EVER STOPPED YOUR COUNTRY?
IT IS APRIL 18TH, 1938. THERE IS NO CAR.

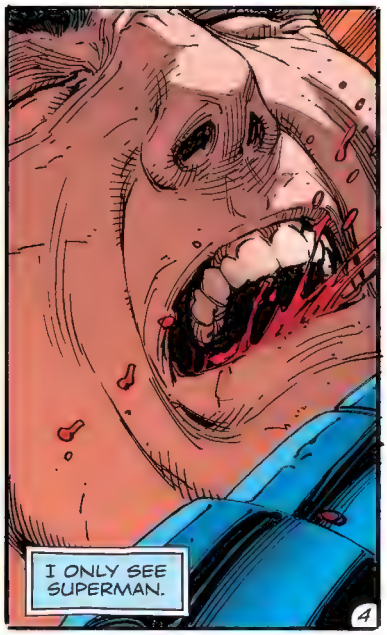

...WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE STILL ON MARS FIGHTING THE BEING WHO THEY CLAIM IS TRULY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPLOSION IN MOSCOW, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ORDERED THE KNIGHTS TO PROTECT AMERICA'S INTERESTS.
WHAT THOSE INTERESTS EXACTLY ARE REMAINS UNCLEAR.
IT IS NOW.

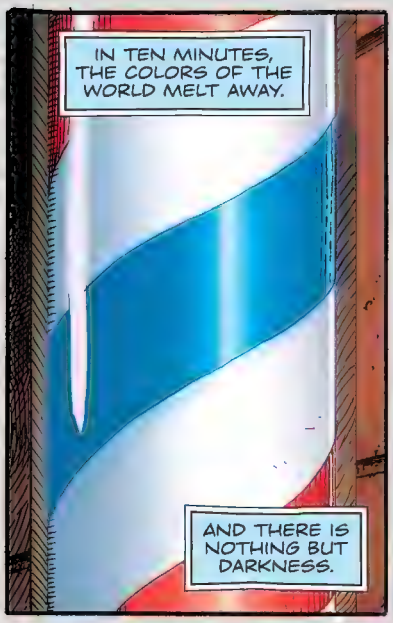
I AM CAUGHT IN A QUESTION WITH TWO ANSWERS.


AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTIONS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL METAHUMAN RESOURCES TO THE U.S.
DESPITE PROTESTS THROUGHOUT SYDNEY AFTER PAST TWEETS BY DARK RANGER REVEALED HIS SUPPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN PROTECTIONIST PARTY, HE REMAINS A MEMBER OF THE SLEEPING SOLDIERS.


I CANNOT SEE THROUGH THIS BARRIER OF BLACKNESS.


PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU HAS COMMITTED ISRAEL TO FORCING BLACK ADAM BACK TO KAHNDAQ.
ISRAEL'S METAHUMAN PROGRAM, HAYOTH, GAINED NOTORIETY LAST WEEK AFTER A VIDEO APPEARED TO SHOW ITS LEADER, SERAPH, EXECUTING UNARMED TERRORISTS, SOMETHING WHICH HE DENIES.


I ONLY SEE SUPERMAN.


IN TEN MINUTES, THE COLORS OF THE WORLD MELT AWAY.
AND THERE IS NOTHING BUT DARKNESS.

Ali The Barber
BARBER
URGING ALL RESIDENCES WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN D.C. AREA TO EVACUATE
MARCHES TURNING VIOLENT
ELITE BASIJ SIDING WITH KAHNDAQ
DECLARING WAR AGAINST RUSSIA
GREAT TWENTY WITH RUSSIA
JAPAN SENDING BIG MONSTER ACTION
CLOSED

THIS IS THE END.

:GGGG!:

HAHAHAHAHA.
KNEW I'D CATCH ONE OF YOU TRYIN' TO BREAK INTA MY STORE.

C'MON NOW, BOY.

STAND UP AND FIGHT BACK.

I SEE NOTHING...
...TO FIGHT FOR.

EXCUSE ME, SIR.
HUH?
YOU'VE GOT BLOOD ON YOUR HAT.
I GOT WHAT?
TOLD YOU.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
WHERE WOULD WE ALL BE IF I DID THAT?
I REQUIRE YOUR ASSISTANCE.
SUPERMAN DOES.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP US FIND OZYMANDIAS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
YOU DUH-DON'T KNOW...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHOSE FACE THAT IS.
YES, I DO. I'VE READ HIS JOURNAL. HIS NAME WAS...
DON'T SAY HIS NAME!
6

AAHH!
MONSTER'S NAME. MONSTER'S FACE.
FILLED WITH EMPTINESS.
"EYES WERE CLOSED.
NOW THEY'RE OPEN.
I SEE THE TRUTH!
"FIGHTING WILL NOT HELP.
YOUR WORLD'S GOING TO END LIKE MINE.
IT WILL UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING TO SAVE IT.
IRAN CALLING SUPERMAN A WAR CRIMINAL AND VOWING TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THE AMERICAN HERO...
LOOK AT MASK...
DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
I SEE PIECES OF ROCK FLOATING IN SPACE.
"I SEE NO FUTURE.
"I SEE NO HOPE."

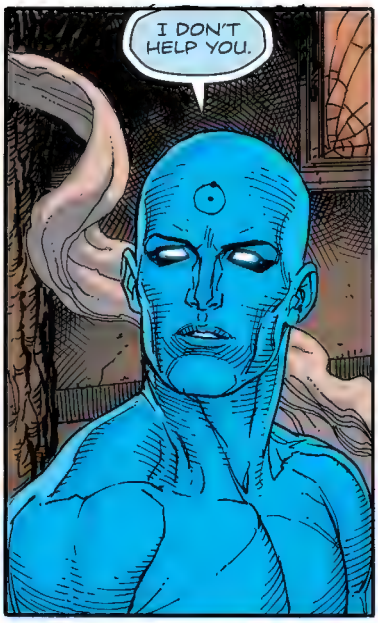
"IT IS LOST AND I CANNOT FIND IT."

MY FUH-FATHER USED TO WAKE ME UP EVERY MUH-MORNING WITH SMILE ON HIS FUH-FACE.
HE'D TELL ME NO MATTER WHAT CAME MY WAY TO MAKE MUH-MOST OF IT.
AAAARRRR!
HE BUH-BELIEVED THERE WAS GOOD TO BE FOUND EVERYWHERE. IN EVERYONE.
WE JUST HAD TO LUH-LOOK FOR IT.
"WE HAD TO SEE IT AND HELP OTHERS SEE IT TUH-TOO.
"NEVER GAVE IN TO DARK THOUGHTS.
"BUT SOME PEOPLE CAN'T SEE THE GOOD.
"THEY ONLY WUH-WANT EVERYONE ELSE TO SUFFER WITH THEM.
"AND THEY'RE GOING TO WIN.
"THE WORLD IS DROWNING IN HATE AND ANGER. SIDES SEPARATED BY AN EVER-WIDENING CANYON OF DIGITAL BILE.
"SOON BOTH FACTIONS WILL TUMBLE OFF EDGE, FALLING INTO BOTTOMLESS PIT OF LIBERAL SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS AND OUTDATED IDENTITY POLITICS...
"...HANDS CLUTCHING THEIR WEAPONIZED PHONES, FINDING NO OLIVE BRANCH TO SAVE THEM.
"BECAUSE NEITHER SIDE KNOWS WHAT THAT MEANS ANYMORE.
LOST SIGHT OF SUPERMAN NOW AS REPORTS CONFIRM HE IS FIGHTING ALONE
"WHY NOT LET THIS UGLY WORLD DESTROY ITSELF..."
10

...BEFORE WE'RE DRAGGED DOWN INTO THE DARKNESS WITH IT?
I KNOW YOU TRIED TO WARN ME.
I'M SORRY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

"THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW."
MOMMY?!
SHUT YOUR EYES.
SUPERMAN?
12

WHOEVER YOU ARE, HELP THESE PEOPLE!

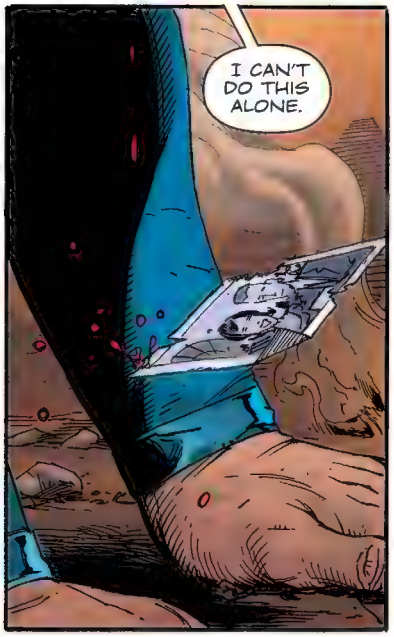

I DON'T HELP YOU.

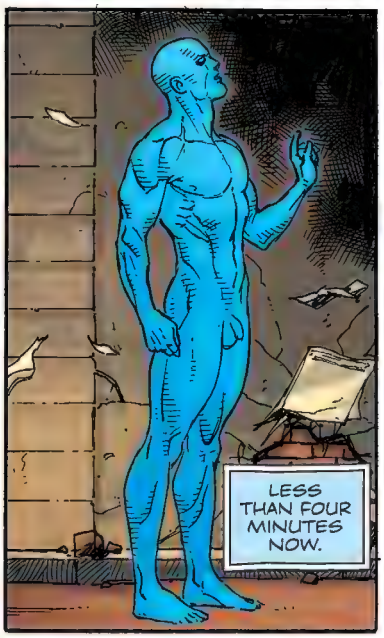
NNRR!

I'VE ALREADY SEEN IT.

WHAT ARE YAAAAAAAH!

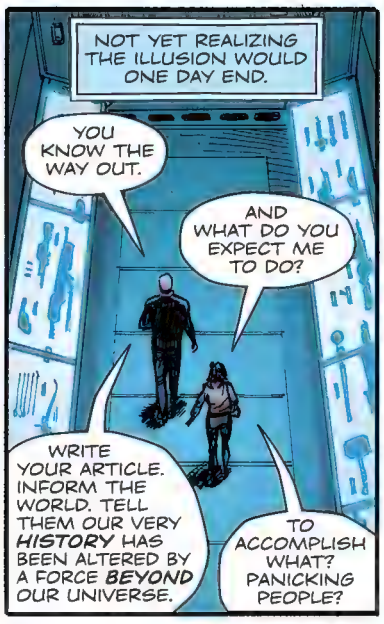
I...


I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.


LESS THAN FOUR MINUTES NOW.

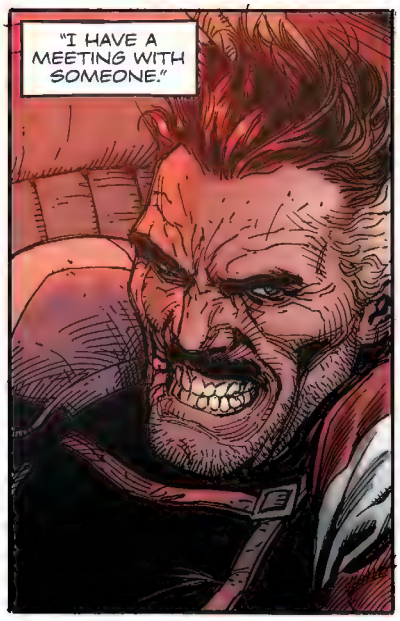
New York
NOVEMBER 2. 198
IT IS NOVEMBER 2ND, 1985.
13

I REMEMBER THIS FEELING.
MILLIONS WILL DIE. A COMPLICATED PROSPECT OF PEACE BROUGHT TO AN UNHINGED WORLD.
KILLING WALTER KOVACS, I BECOME PART OF THE LIE.
TUTE FOR SPATIAL STUDIES
WAR?


NOT YET REALIZING THE ILLUSION WOULD ONE DAY END.
YOU KNOW THE WAY OUT.
AND WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?
WRITE YOUR ARTICLE. INFORM THE WORLD. TELL THEM OUR VERY HISTORY HAS BEEN ALTERED BY A FORCE BEYOND OUR UNIVERSE.
TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT? PANICKING PEOPLE?

TO TELL PEOPLE I WAS THE ONE WHO UNCOVERED IT.
I WANT THE CREDIT FOR MY WORK.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, LOIS...
VIBRATIONAL EMITTER


"I HAVE A MEETING WITH SOMEONE."

PULL OVER!
YOU WISH!
HAHAHAHAHA!
STOP

"SO YOU BELIEVE WHAT DR. MANHATTAN DOES?

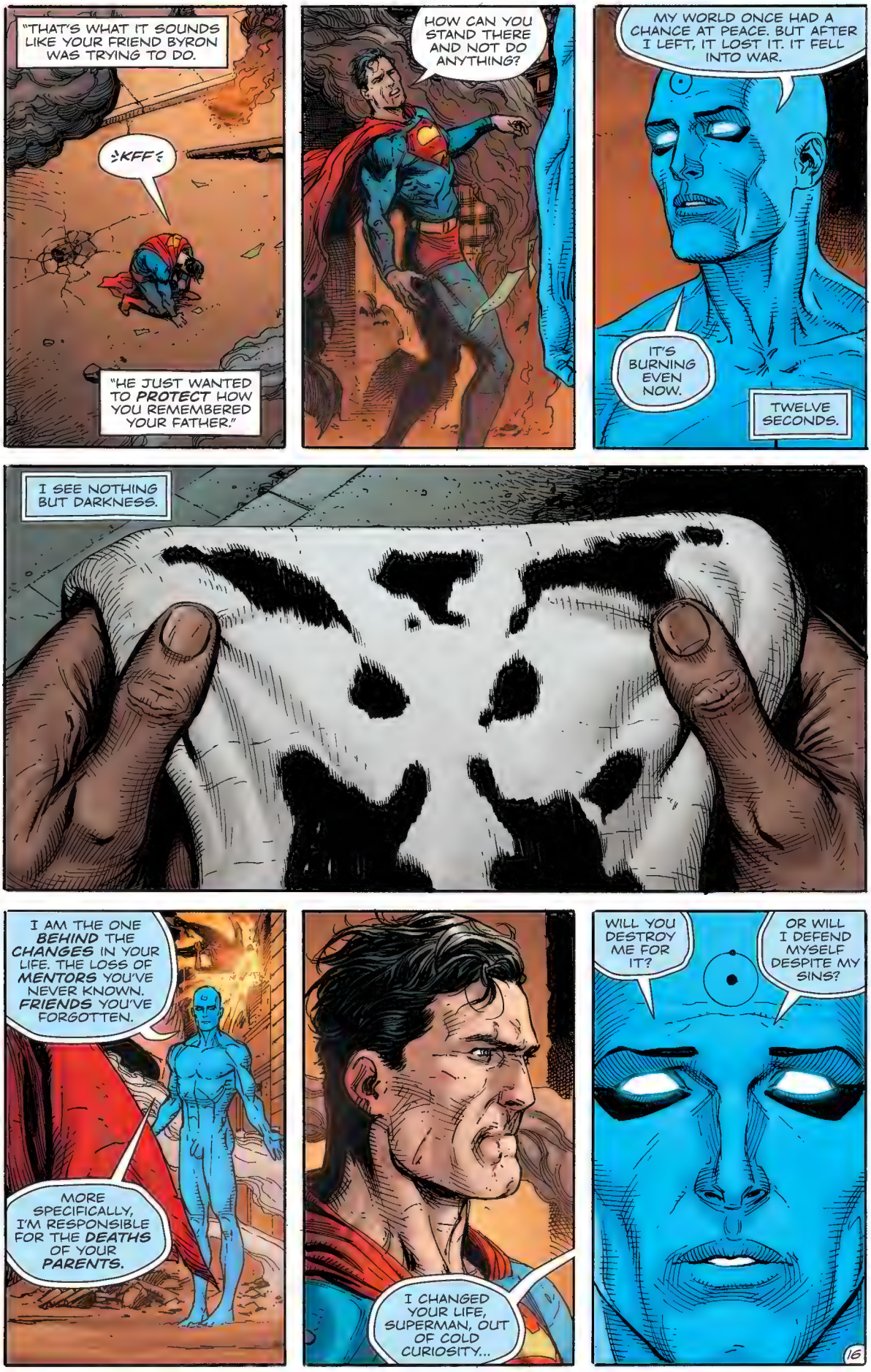
THAT EVERYTHING IS ALREADY PREORDAINED.
I READ KOVACS' JOURNAL, TOO. I KNOW WHO JON OSTERMAN IS.
KNOW WHO RORSCHACH IS THEN. KNOW WHY I CAN'T WEAR THAT MASK.

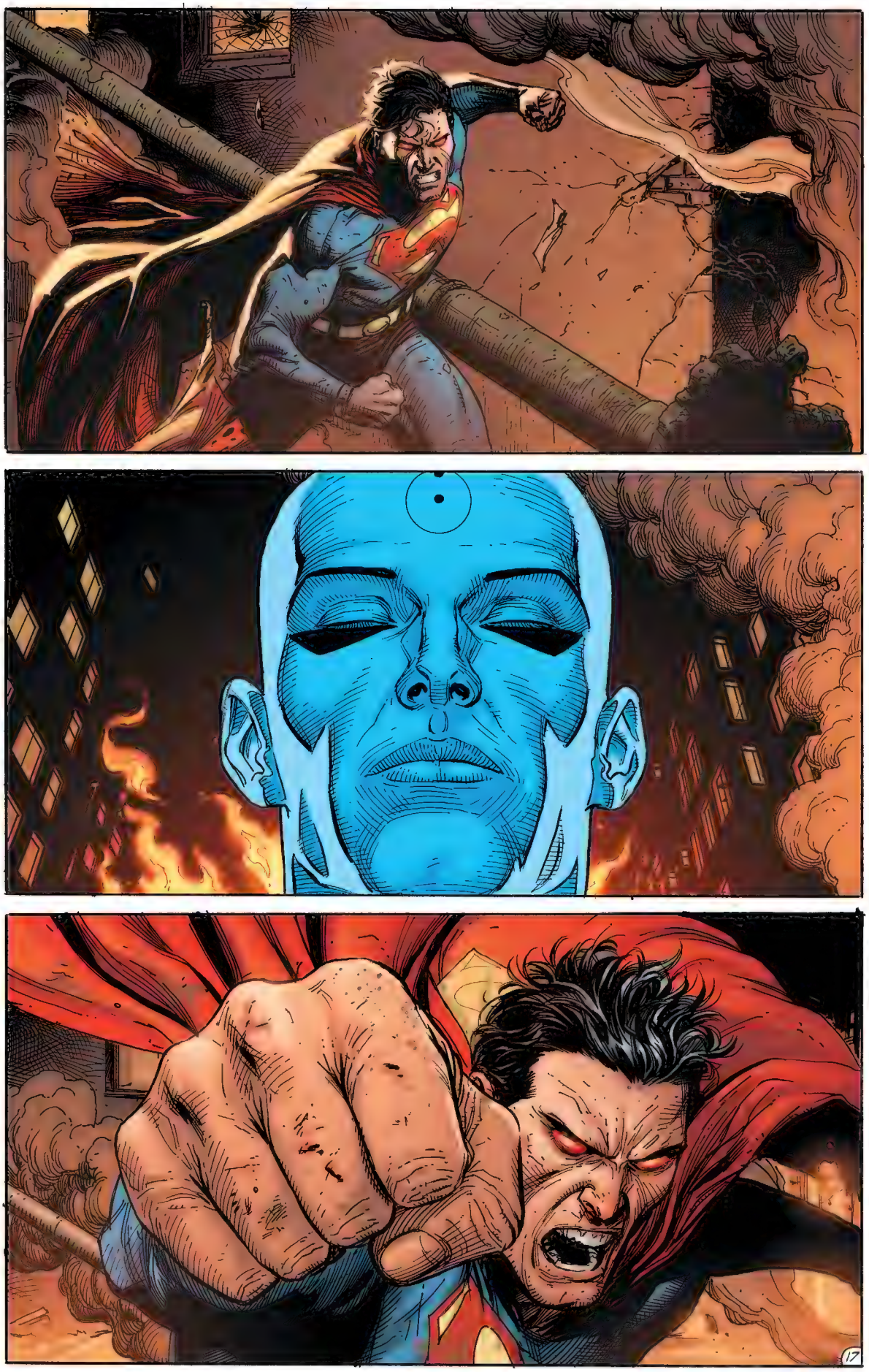
BYRON LEWIS. MOTHMAN.
MY SUPPOSED FRIEND IN HOSPITAL LIED TO ME. TOLD ME MY FATHER WAS GETTING THROUGH TO RORSCHACH, BUT TRUTH...
RORSCHACH WAS GETTING THROUGH TO HIM.

DESTROYED MY FATHER. MY MOTHER. DIED ALONE. SEE IT.
I ALWAYS SEE IT.

YOU SEE A MONSTER WHEN YOU LOOK AT THAT MASK.
BUT YOU CAN TAKE IT. CHANGE IT.

MAKE PEOPLE SEE SOMETHING ELSE.


"THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FRIEND BYRON WAS TRYING TO DO.
:KFF:
"HE JUST WANTED TO PROTECT HOW YOU REMEMBERED YOUR FATHER."
HOW CAN YOU STAND THERE AND NOT DO ANYTHING?
MY WORLD ONCE HAD A CHANCE AT PEACE. BUT AFTER I LEFT, IT LOST IT. IT FELL INTO WAR.
IT'S BURNING EVEN NOW.
TWELVE SECONDS.
I SEE NOTHING BUT DARKNESS.
I AM THE ONE BEHIND THE CHANGES IN YOUR LIFE. THE LOSS OF MENTORS YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN. FRIENDS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN.
MORE SPECIFICALLY, I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF YOUR PARENTS.
I CHANGED YOUR LIFE, SUPERMAN, OUT OF COLD CURIOSITY...
WILL YOU DESTROY ME FOR IT?
OR WILL I DEFEND MYSELF DESPITE MY SINS?
16

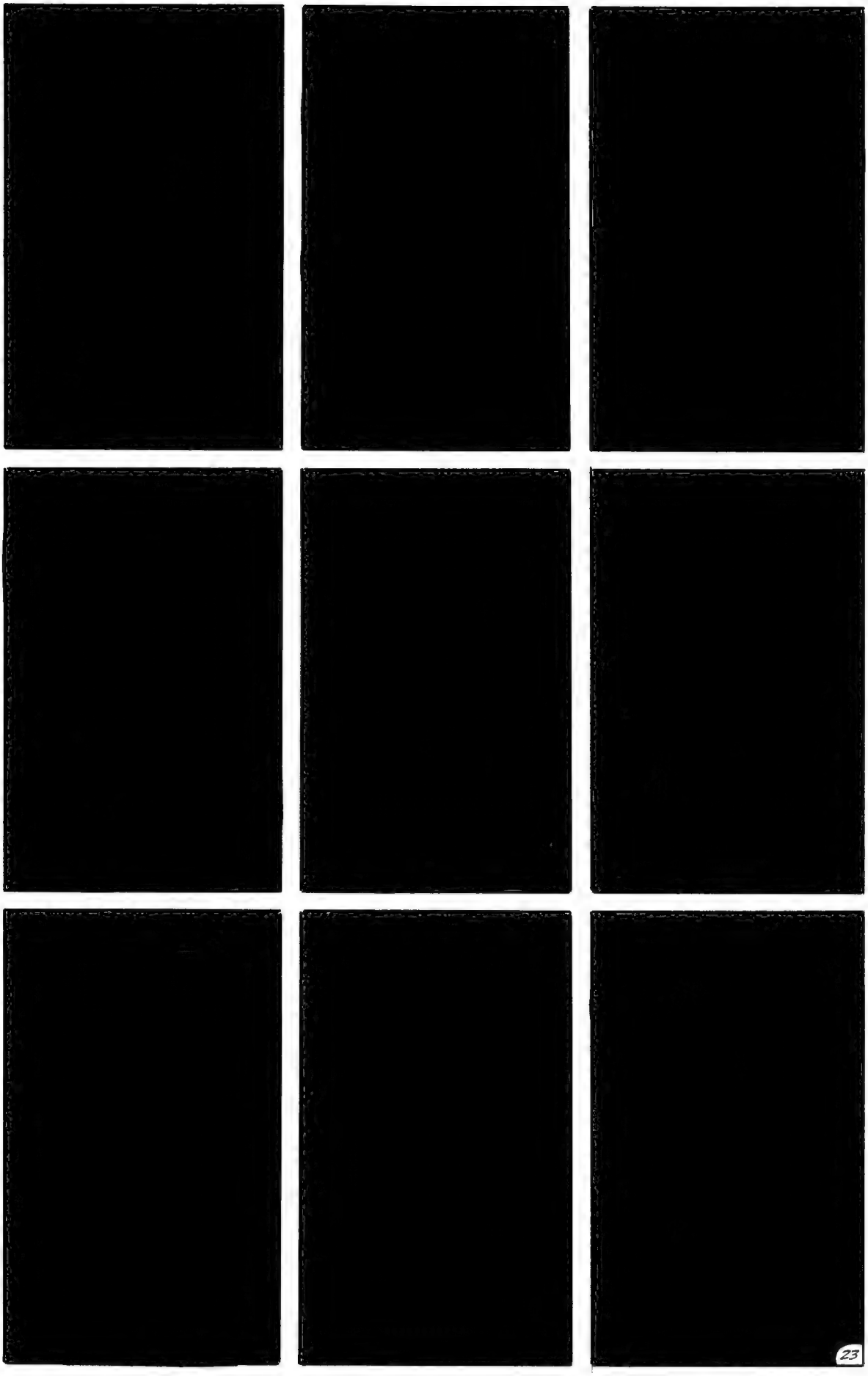


AAAHHH!
HIS FLAME IS SNUFFED OUT. THE DARKNESS IS STILL COMING. BUT I AM CONFUSED.
WHY WOULD YOU DEFEND ME...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ABOUT ALL THIS...
BUT I DO KNOW THAT RIGHT NOW...
"RIGHT NOW YOU HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE.
"YOU TALK ABOUT ME DESTROYING YOU OR YOU DESTROYING ME BECAUSE ALL YOU SEE BEYOND THIS IS NOTHING?
"BUT MAYBE THERE'S A THIRD CHOICE."
18

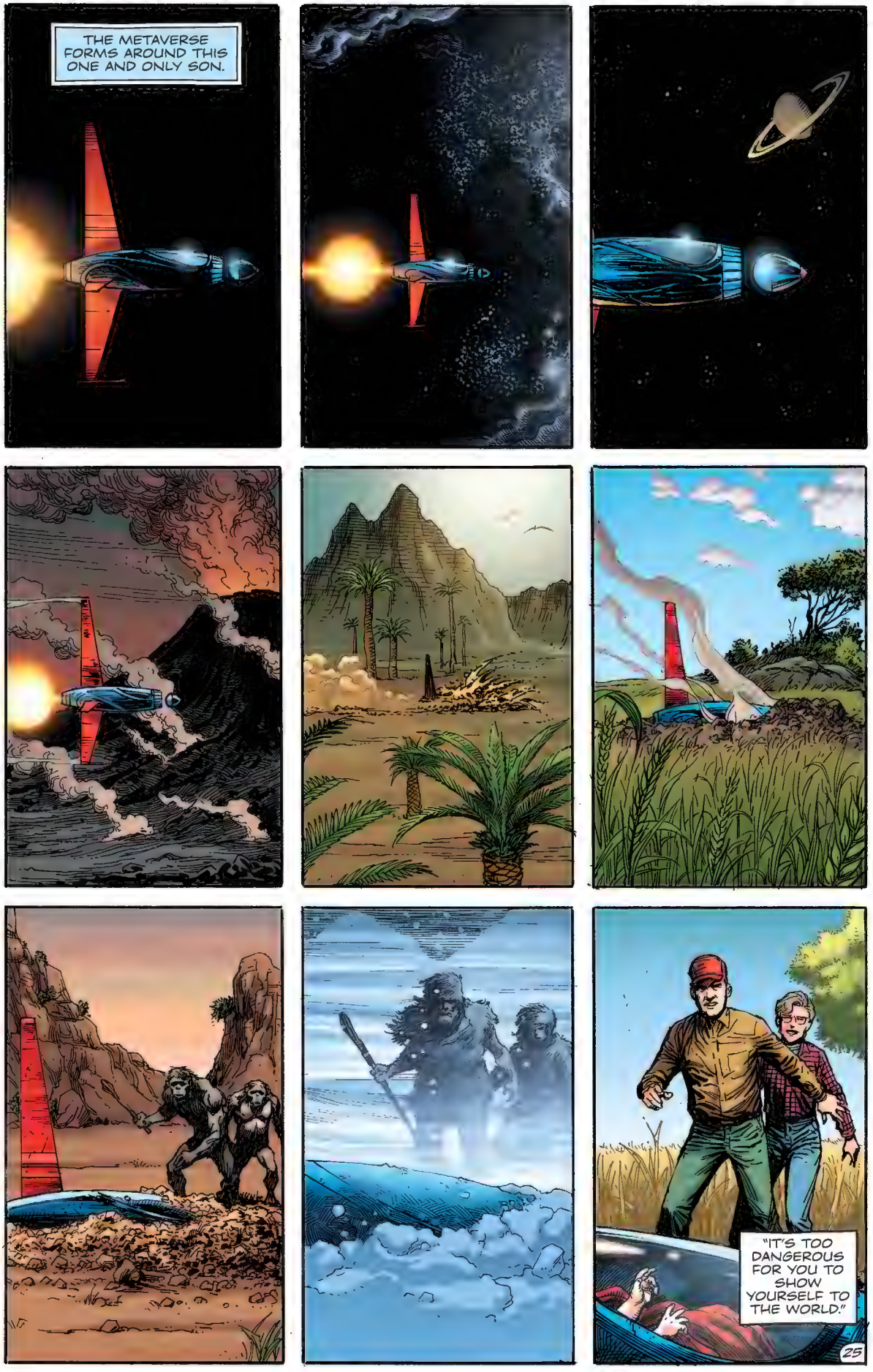
WHO IS SHE?
SHE?
YOU'RE CREATING THOSE PHOTOGRAPHS WITH EVERY STEP YOU TAKE.
I ASSUME THEY'RE IMPORTANT TO YOU.
JON!
JANEY!
SHE WAS.
MAYBE THE DARKNESS YOU SEE...
MAYBE IT TAKES EVERYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAVE YOUR WORLD.

"MAYBE YOU MAKE THAT CHOICE."

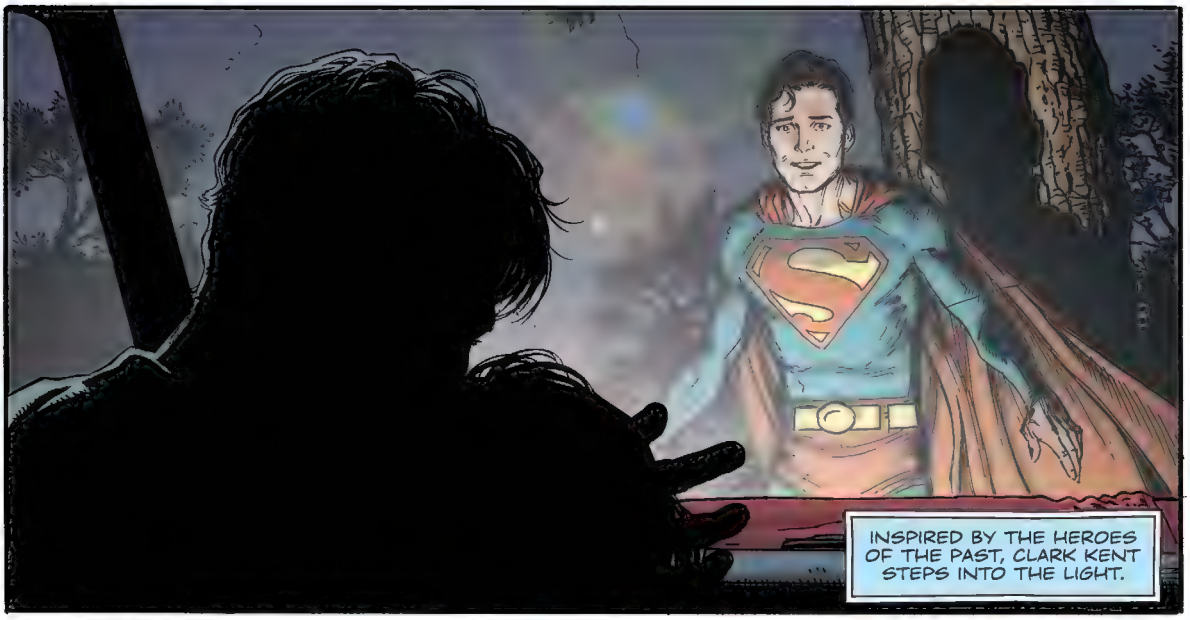
YES.
I UNDERSTAND NOW.
EVERYTHING ENDS.



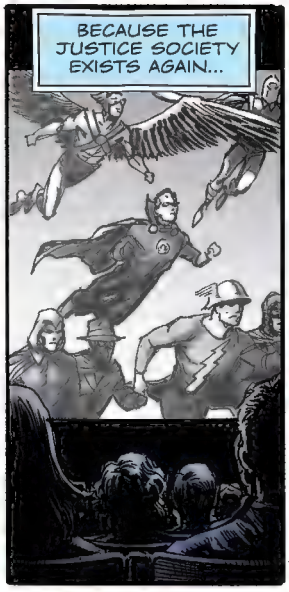
IT BEGINS WITH A CHILD.


THE METAVERSE FORMS AROUND THIS ONE AND ONLY SON.
"IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO SHOW YOURSELF TO THE WORLD."
25

THEY'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE YOU, CLARK.
IF THEY DID, A LOT OF 'EM WOULD BE AFRAID.
IT'S JULY 16TH, 1940.
I MOVE THE LANTERN SIX INCHES OUT OF ENGINEER ALAN SCOTT'S REACH.
HE DIES AS THE TRAIN CAREENS OFF THE BRIDGE.
IT'S JULY 16TH, 1940. I MOVE THE LANTERN BACK.
"THEY'VE SEEN PEOPLE WITH EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES ***BEFORE***, CLARK.
WHEN I WAS A BOY, MY FATHER TOLD ME STORIES OF THE ***JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. WARTIME HEROES*** WHO MADE US FEEL SAFER AND INSPIRED US TO DO ***OUR*** PART.
BUT THAT WAS ***DECADES*** AGO...
SO IF YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU'RE READY TO GET ***OUT THERE*** AND ***SHOW*** EVERYONE WHAT YOU CAN DO, WELL, THE WORLD IS READY, ***TOO***, CLARK.
THANKS, PA!
NOW YOU GO ASK LANA ABOUT THAT DANCE!
I WILL!
I WORRY ABOUT CLARK. HE'S SO ALONE.
HE HAS YOU AND ME.
WE WON'T BE AROUND FOREVER...
JONATHAN?
JONATHAN!


INSPIRED BY THE HEROES OF THE PAST, CLARK KENT STEPS INTO THE LIGHT.

IS THAT...
OUR SON.

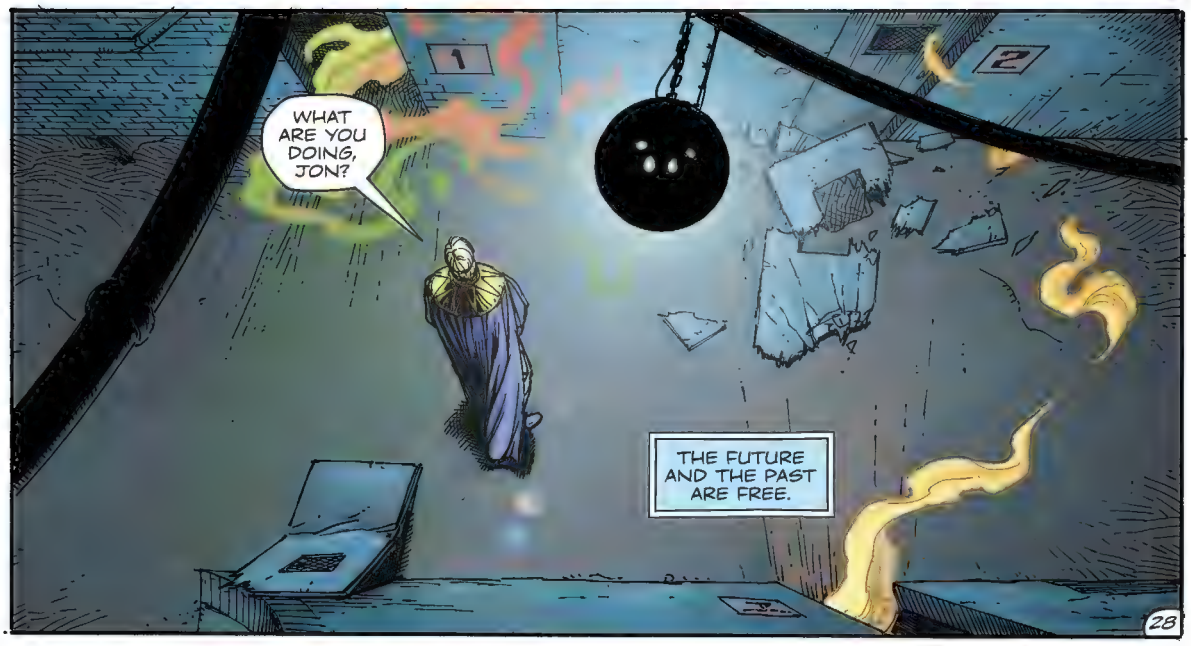

BECAUSE THE JUSTICE SOCIETY EXISTS AGAIN...

...SO DOES SUPERBOY.
YOU SAVED US, CLARK.
YOU LOOK SO HANDSOME.
THANKS, MA.

AND BECAUSE SUPERBOY EXISTS AGAIN...
EARTH EMBRACED HIM, AN ALIEN IMMIGRANT LIKE US.
HE LED THE WAY.
SO DOES THE LEGION.

AS THE METAVERSE RE-FORMS, TIME CATCHES UP.
IT IS NOW.

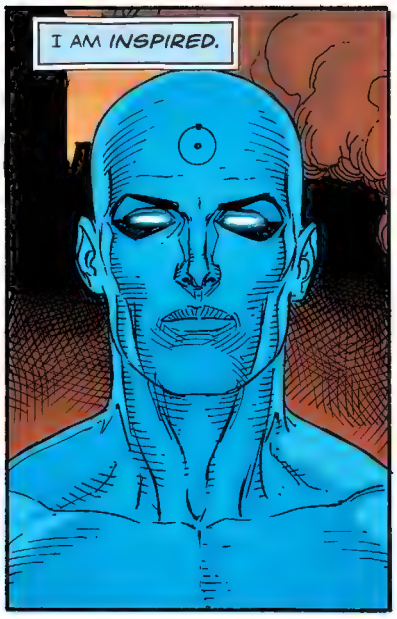
HSSSSS
BUBASTIS?
YES, I FELT IT, TOO.
ONE THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW, A YOUNG GIRL SAVES THE LIFE OF INTERGALACTIC PHILANTHROPIST R.J. BRANDE.
ON JULY 7TH, 1917. JONATHAN L. THUNDER IS BORN AND KIDNAPPED TO BADHNESIA.
JOHNNY?
YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOUR GENIE THIS WHOLE TIME WHEN YOU FORGOT!
FORGOT?
YOU BECAME THE THUNDERBOLT! REMEMBER?
I...
I DID, DIDN'T I?
CEI-U!
HER RING.
THE OLD MAN.

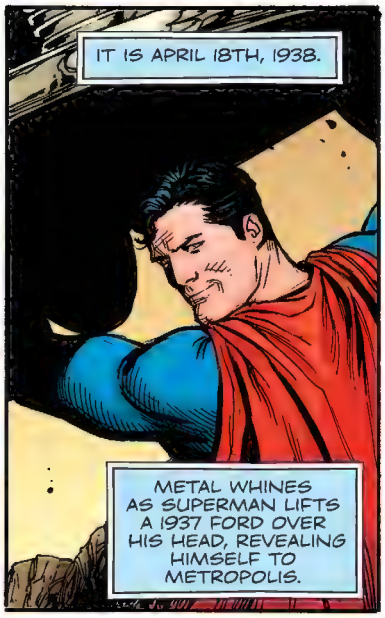

1
2
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JON?
THE FUTURE AND THE PAST ARE FREE.

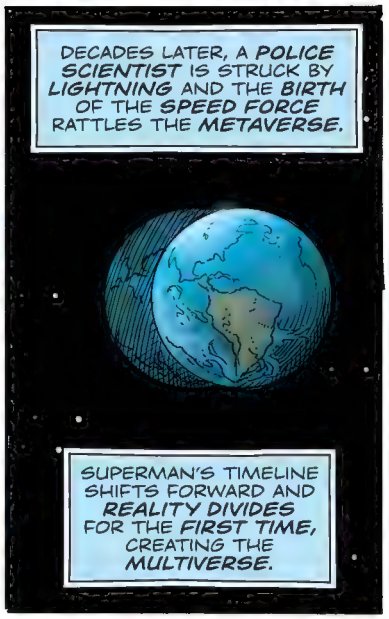
:NNNG!:
GRIFE, THERE HE IS!
A LITTLE TELEPATHIC PUSH WILL CLEAR THEM AWAY.
WHO...?
YOU REMEMBER US NOW, DON'T YOU, KAL?
IMRA.
SORRY WE'RE LATE, SON.
WELL...

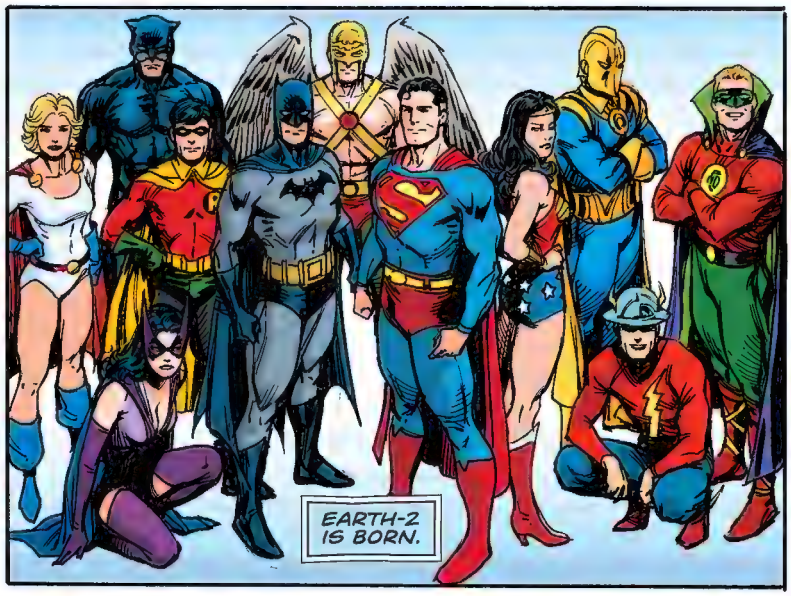
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

GIVE 'IM A TASTE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE, JOHNNY!
YOU GOT IT, PAL!
KAAZZZZZZZZ!
SERVES YOU RIGHT, YA BIG BULLY!
SOULTAKER!
I KNOW, SATURN GIRL. NO KILLING!
ESPECIALLY IN FRONT OF SUPERMAN.
I SEE TOMORROW.
THE MAN OF TOMORROW.
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME...
32

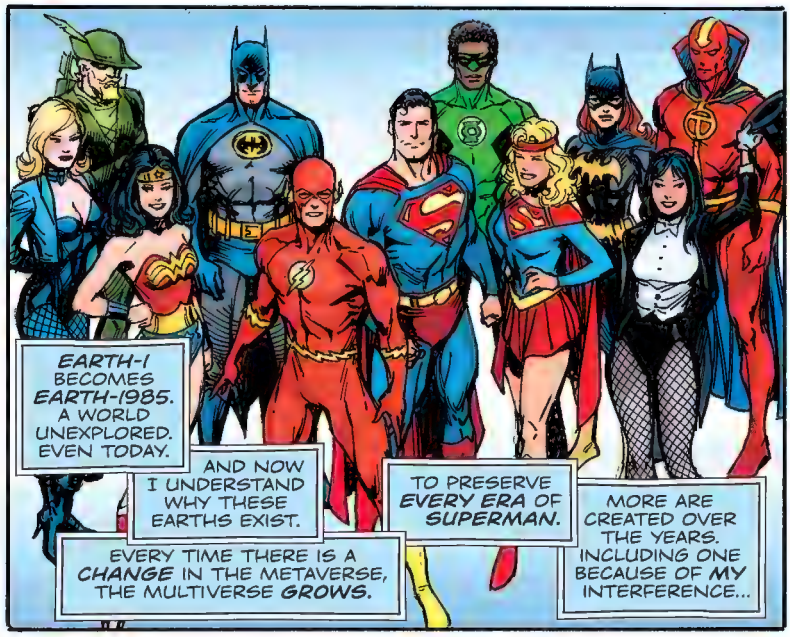

I AM INSPIRED.

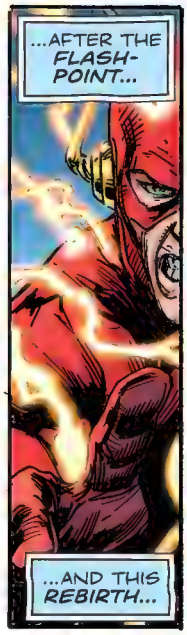

IT IS APRIL 18TH, 1938.
METAL WHINES AS SUPERMAN LIFTS A 1937 FORD OVER HIS HEAD, REVEALING HIMSELF TO METROPOLIS.


DECADES LATER, A POLICE SCIENTIST IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING AND THE BIRTH OF THE SPEED FORCE RATTLES THE METAVERSE.
SUPERMAN'S TIMELINE SHIFTS FORWARD AND REALITY DIVIDES FOR THE FIRST TIME, CREATING THE MULTIVERSE.

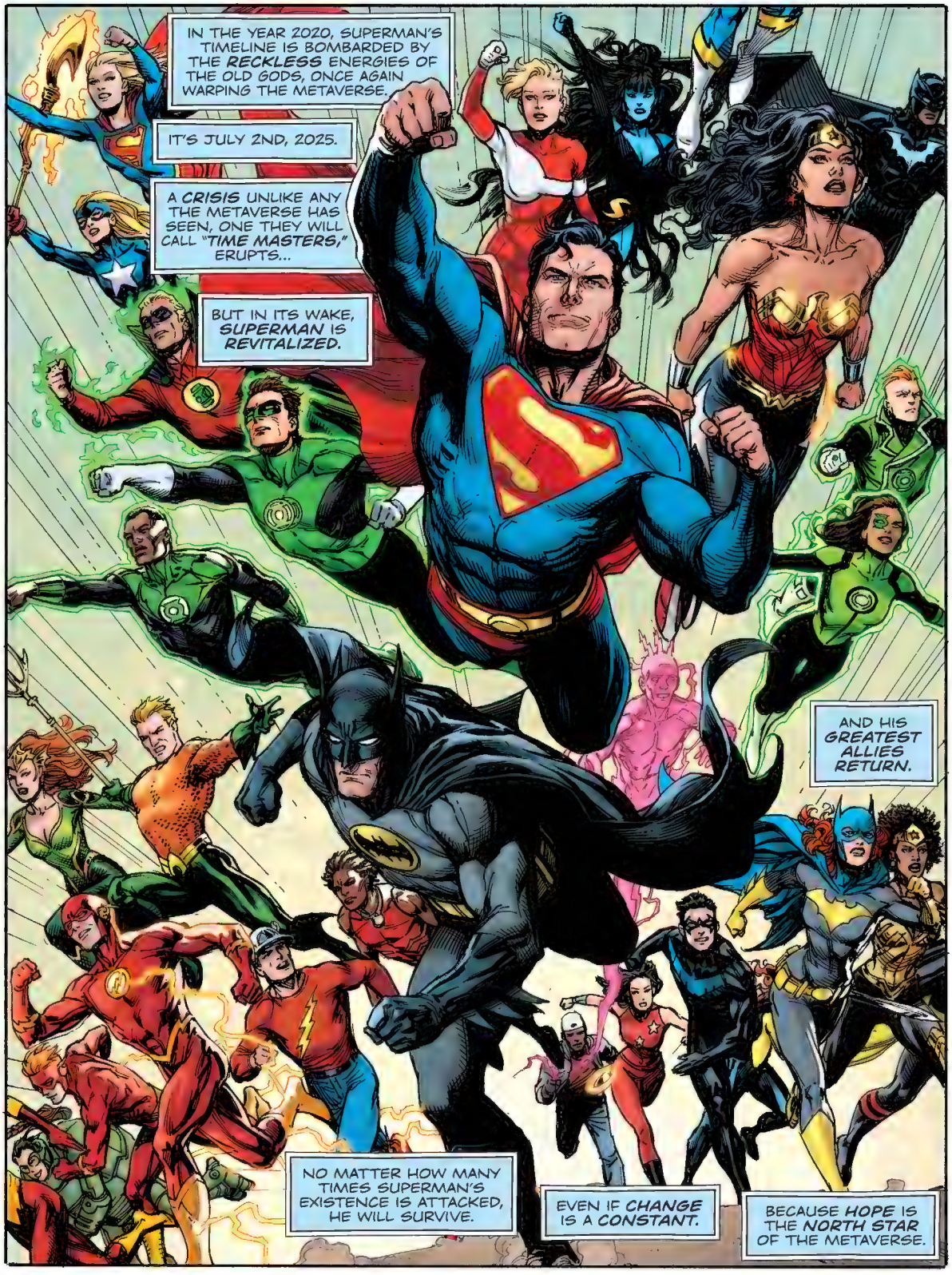

EARTH-2 IS BORN.

AFTER THE FIRST AND GREATEST CRISIS, THE EARTH DIVIDES AGAIN.

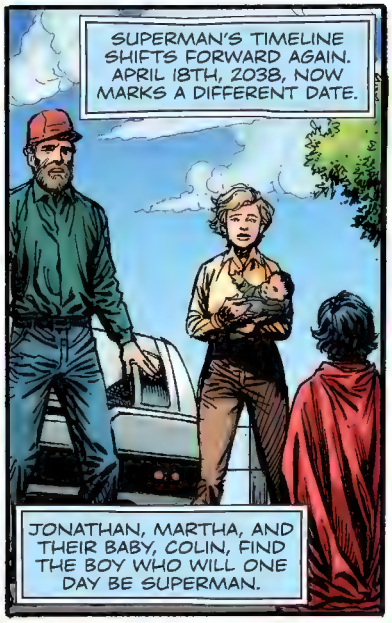

EARTH-1 BECOMES EARTH-1985. A WORLD UNEXPLORED. EVEN TODAY.
AND NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THESE EARTHS EXIST.
EVERY TIME THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE METAVERSE, THE MULTIVERSE GROWS.
TO PRESERVE EVERY ERA OF SUPERMAN.
MORE ARE CREATED OVER THE YEARS. INCLUDING ONE BECAUSE OF MY INTERFERENCE...


...AFTER THE FLASH-POINT...
...AND THIS REBIRTH...

...EARTH-52 IS OUT THERE.
I LOOK BEYOND NOW...

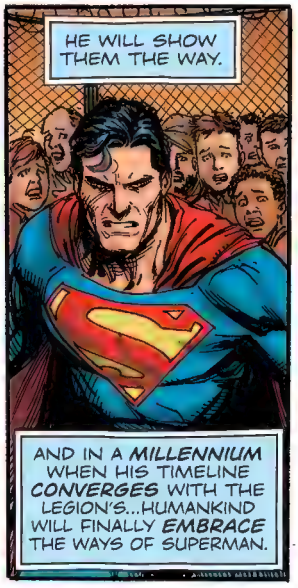

IN THE YEAR 2020, SUPERMAN'S TIMELINE IS BOMBARDED BY THE RECKLESS ENERGIES OF THE OLD GODS, ONCE AGAIN WARPING THE METAVERSE.
IT'S JULY 2ND, 2025.
A CRISIS UNLIKE ANY THE METAVERSE HAS SEEN, ONE THEY WILL CALL "TIME MASTERS," ERUPTS...
BUT IN ITS WAKE, SUPERMAN IS REVITALIZED.
AND HIS GREATEST ALLIES RETURN.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES SUPERMAN'S EXISTENCE IS ATTACKED, HE WILL SURVIVE.
EVEN IF CHANGE IS A CONSTANT.
BECAUSE HOPE IS THE NORTH STAR OF THE METAVERSE.
IT IS JANUARY 2026. THE TIMELINE IS RESTORED...
AND EARTH-5G IS BORN.
IT IS JUNE 17TH, 2026. SUPERMAN GOES ON A QUEST TO FIND BRUCE WAYNE'S LOST DAUGHTER...SO SHE CAN SAVE BRUCE'S SON.
ON JULY 10TH, 2030, THE "SECRET CRISIS" BEGINS, THROWING SUPERMAN INTO A BRAWL ACROSS THE UNIVERSE WITH THOR HIMSELF... AND A GREEN BEHEMOTH STRONGER THAN EVEN DOOMSDAY, WHO DIES PROTECTING SUPERMAN FROM THESE INVADERS.
IN ITS WAKE, SUPERMAN'S TIMELINE SHIFTS FORWARD AGAIN...

IT'S APRIL 18TH, 2038.
SUPERMAN APPEARS IN PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME.
TWENTY-TWO YEARS EARLIER, THE KENTS' PRAYERS FOR A CHILD ARE ANSWERED WHEN A ROCKET LANDS ON THEIR FARM.

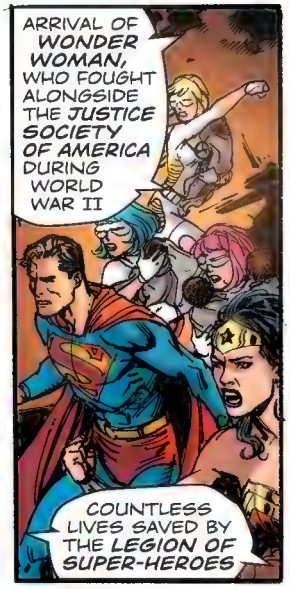

SUPERMAN'S TIMELINE SHIFTS FORWARD AGAIN. APRIL 18TH, 2038, NOW MARKS A DIFFERENT DATE.
JONATHAN, MARTHA, AND THEIR BABY, COLIN, FIND THE BOY WHO WILL ONE DAY BE SUPERMAN.

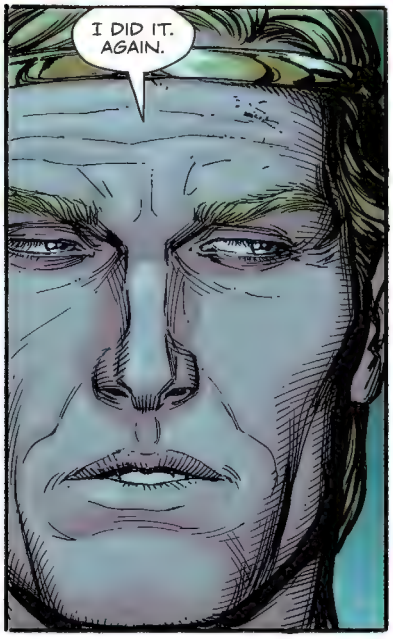
THE ROCKET ARRIVES AGAIN IN THE YEAR 2045, DELIVERING THE KENTS THEIR ONLY CHILD.
THEY FIND THE ROCKET WITH THEIR THREE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, CLARA, IN THE YEAR 2162.
IN 2965, SUPERMAN APPEARS IN METROPOLIS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

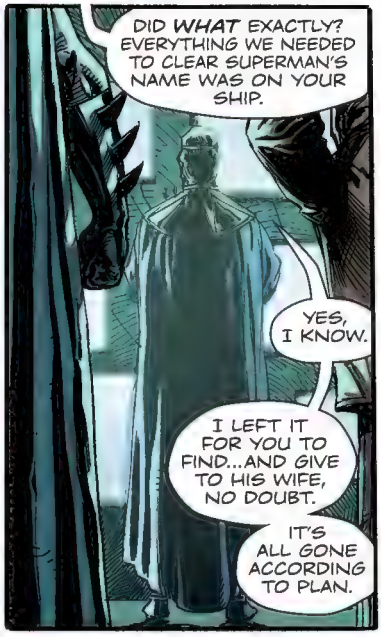
THE ROCKET ARRIVES. A CHILD IS LOVED. SUPERMAN IS MADE.
I NOW UNDERSTAND SUPERMAN'S TRUE PURPOSE.


HE WILL SHOW THEM THE WAY.
AND IN A MILLENNIUM WHEN HIS TIMELINE CONVERGES WITH THE LEGION'S...HUMANKIND WILL FINALLY EMBRACE THE WAYS OF SUPERMAN.

HE IS THE BRIDGE STRETCHING ACROSS GENERATIONS THAT WILL LEAD EVERYONE TO PEACE.
BETWEEN WHAT I LEARNED FROM LEX PONTIFICATING, WHICH TOOK ALL THE PATIENCE IN THE WORLD, AND THIS...
THANK YOU, BRUCE.


ARRIVAL OF WONDER WOMAN, WHO FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA DURING WORLD WAR II
COUNTLESS LIVES SAVED BY THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES


I DID IT. AGAIN.


DID WHAT EXACTLY? EVERYTHING WE NEEDED TO CLEAR SUPERMAN'S NAME WAS ON YOUR SHIP.
YES, I KNOW.
I LEFT IT FOR YOU TO FIND...AND GIVE TO HIS WIFE, NO DOUBT.
IT'S ALL GONE ACCORDING TO PLAN.

DON'T WORRY, BUBASTIS. IT'S ONLY JON.
LET HIM SUMMON US.

I KNOW.
THAT DAMN BLUE LIGHT.
AND WE WERE HAVING SO MUCH F
I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE, ADRIAN.
I WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS BY THIS POINT IN THE GAME, JON.
ONCE I LEARNED ABOUT YOUR VISION OF SUPERMAN, AND SUPERMAN HIMSELF, IT WAS RATHER A SIMPLE INITIATIVE.
IF I COULDN'T CONVINCE YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS TO SAVE OUR WORLD...I WAS CERTAIN HE WOULD.
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS ARRANGE THE CONFRONTATION.
SO LET'S GO HOME.
EVERYONE LIVES TODAY.
NNNG!

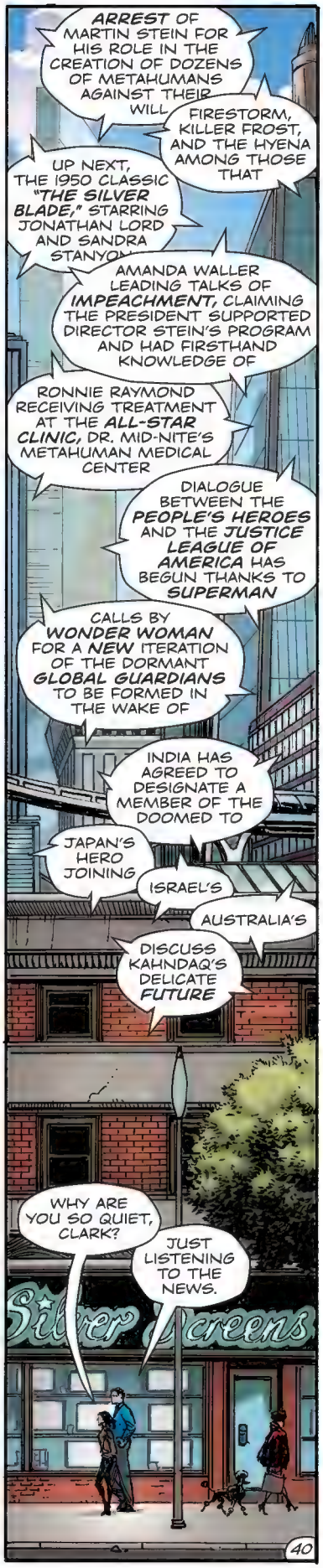
'CEPT MAYBE YOU, VEIDT.
GODDAMN ASSHOLE.
NOW FOR YOU TWO CLOWNNNZZZZZZ!
I DON'T USE THAT LANGUAGE OFTEN MYSELF, BUT IT'S APPROPRIATE.
YOU GODDAMN ASSHOLE.
WHAT DID YOU DUH-DO?
I'M NEGATING THE VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY THAT'S BROUGHT YOU HERE.
I'M SENDING YOU BACK TO WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM.
NO! MANHATTAN, YOU SON OF A BITCH!
THIS CAN'T BE HOW IT EN
IT IS OCTOBER 11TH, 1985. GLASS SHATTERS.
37

VEIDT...
WE ALL GET WHAT WE WANT, REGGIE.
I GET TO DIE A HERO. JON GETS PURPOSE.
YOU GET REVENGE.
DON'T WANT REVENGE.
WANT JUSTICE.
GGGGAAAA!
WANT TO STOP THE BLEEDING.
YOU LIVE. PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES.
ROT IN PRISON.
YOU'RE... GNN...NOT RORSCHACH.
NO.
RORSCHACH IS ME.

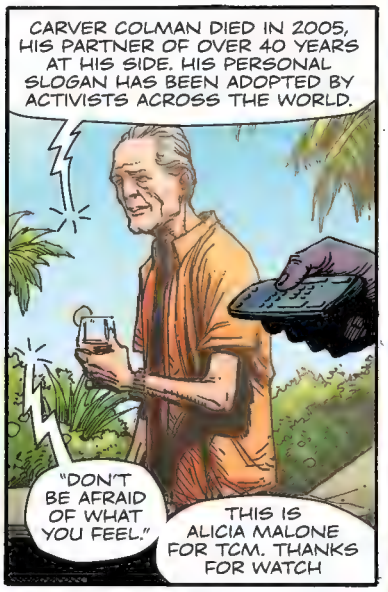
ERIKA MANSON.
YOU AND MARCOS MAEZ ARE NOT COMING WITH US.
WHAT?!
WE WERE PROMISED WE'D GET OUR SON BACK.
WE WANT OUR SON, DAMMIT!
YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER ON THE WAY. AS FOR YOUR SON...
MY PLAN IS THAT YOU'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN. HE WILL NEED AN ANCHOR HERE...
...AS I DID.
AN ANCHOR?
I SEE THE LIGHT NOW.
I SEE MY FINAL PURPOSE.
IT IS APRIL 18TH, 1954.
MY ANCHOR SITS IN A DINER, NERVES TREMBLING.
Amalde's
DINER
IT IS ONE SECOND AFTER MY ANNUAL CONVERSATION WITH CARVER COLMAN.
I'M NOT GOING TO BE HERE A YEAR FROM NOW? WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T EXPLAIN MYSELF BETTER.
JON? YOU'RE BACK?
IT IS I WHO WILL NOT BE AROUND.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I HAVEN'T BEEN A VERY GOOD... FRIEND, CARVER. BUT I CAN SEE SO MANY FUTURES NOW...MAKE A GOOD CHOICE.
DON'T BE AFRAID OF WHAT YOU FEEL.
"IT'S NOT WHO WINS OR LOSES. IT'S HOW YOU PLAYED THE GAME."

15% OFF
...THAT CONCLUDES OUR ANNUAL NATHANIEL DUSK MARATHON IN HONOR OF ITS LATE STAR, CARVER COLMAN.
The End

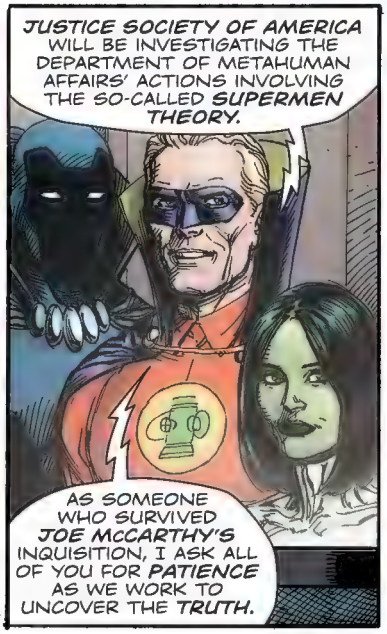
FACING BLACKMAIL, CARVER COLMAN CAME OUT TO THE PUBLIC IN 1954 BEFORE THE RELEASE OF THE FINAL NATHANIEL DUSK FILM, "THE ADJOURNMENT."
SHUNNED BY THE STUDIOS, HE BECAME A RECLUSE FOR YEARS. LOSING HIS HOME, HE ALMOST ENDED UP BACK ON THE STREETS.


ARREST OF MARTIN STEIN FOR HIS ROLE IN THE CREATION OF DOZENS OF METAHUMANS AGAINST THEIR WILL
FIRESTORM, KILLER FROST, AND THE HYENA AMONG THOSE THAT
UP NEXT, THE 1950 CLASSIC "THE SILVER BLADE," STARRING JONATHAN LORD AND SANDRA STANYON
AMANDA WALLER LEADING TALKS OF IMPEACHMENT, CLAIMING THE PRESIDENT SUPPORTED DIRECTOR STEIN'S PROGRAM AND HAD FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF
RONNIE RAYMOND RECEIVING TREATMENT AT THE ALL-STAR CLINIC, DR. MID-NITE'S METAHUMAN MEDICAL CENTER
DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S HEROES AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA HAS BEGUN THANKS TO SUPERMAN
CALLS BY WONDER WOMAN FOR A NEW ITERATION OF THE DORMANT GLOBAL GUARDIANS TO BE FORMED IN THE WAKE OF
INDIA HAS AGREED TO DESIGNATE A MEMBER OF THE DOOMED TO
JAPAN'S HERO JOINING
ISRAEL'S
AUSTRALIA'S
DISCUSS KAHNDAQ'S DELICATE FUTURE
WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET, CLARK?
JUST LISTENING TO THE NEWS.
Silver Screens

BUT CARVER COLMAN RETURNED TO ACTING IN THE MID-'60S, GOING ON TO WIN AN ACADEMY AWARD FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR FOR FRED COE'S "A THOUSAND CLOWNS."
AND IN 1973, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING HOMOSEXUALITY REMOVED FROM THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION'S DIAGNOSTIC MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS.


CARVER COLMAN DIED IN 2005, HIS PARTNER OF OVER 40 YEARS AT HIS SIDE. HIS PERSONAL SLOGAN HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY ACTIVISTS ACROSS THE WORLD.
"DON'T BE AFRAID OF WHAT YOU FEEL."
THIS IS ALICIA MALONE FOR TCM. THANKS FOR WATCH

ARRIVAL OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND THEIR ALLIES FROM MARS, ANNOUNCING THE LATEST INTERDIMENSIONAL THREAT THAT FRAMED SUPERMAN HAS BEEN NEUTRALIZED

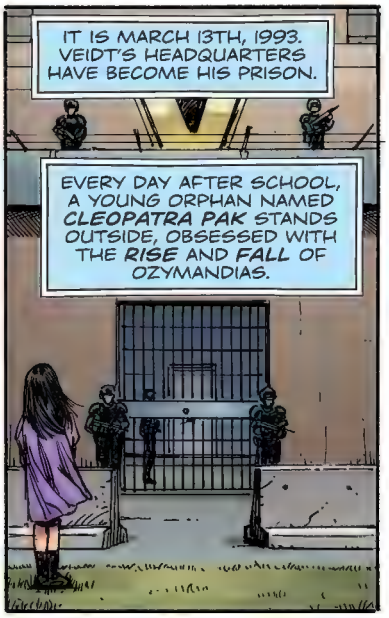

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA WILL BE INVESTIGATING THE DEPARTMENT OF METAHUMAN AFFAIRS' ACTIONS INVOLVING THE SO-CALLED SUPERMEN THEORY.
AS SOMEONE WHO SURVIVED JOE McCARTHY'S INQUISITION, I ASK ALL OF YOU FOR PATIENCE AS WE WORK TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH.

"LEARN ANYTHING INTERESTING?
"CLARK? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?"
GUESS THIS IS OUR LITTLE NEST NOW, LOVER.
YOU DRIVE.
"NO, LOIS, I JUST... THERE'S SUCH A LONG ROAD AHEAD."
"WELL NO ONE SAID YOU COULD BLINK AND MAKE EVERYTHING PERFECT."
VEIDT HAD THE RIGHT IDEA.
BUT IT CAN BE IMPROVED UPON.
"THE WORLD'S MORE CONNECTED THAN EVER, BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN SO DIVIDED.
PEOPLE ARE CHOOSING SIDES INSTEAD OF EXTENDING THEIR HANDS.
BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE. YOU DID IT. YOU REACHED OUT TO HIM.
YOU CHANGED HIM.
AND HE'LL CHANGE SOMEONE NOW, TOO, DON'T YOU THINK? BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE FAITH IN THAT, THERE'S HOPE FOR ALL OF US.
THERE'S THE BOY I KNOW!
CLARK! LOIS!
MA! PA! I TOLD YOU WE WERE GOING TO PICK YOU UP AT THE STATION!
WE CAUGHT AN EARLIER FLIGHT. AND YOU KNOW YOUR FATHER. HE DOESN'T LIKE TO BE A BOTHER.
CITY'S CLEANER THAN I REMEMBER.
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.
I AFFECTED HIS WORLD.

AND NOW HE WILL AFFECT MINE.
IT IS NOVEMBER 22ND, 1992. VEIDT'S PLAN HAS BLOWN UP IN THE WORLD'S FACE.
IN MEMORIAM
VEIDT WORLD
THE ASH IS STILL WARM UNDER MY FEET.
THE END
THE TACHYONS FROM THE OWL SHIP DEPARTING ARE STILL DISSIPATING.
IT IS 1945. THE COGS FLY INTO THE AIR.
IT IS 1959. I FIX JANEY'S WATCH.
IT IS 1992. I SEE A LIGHT.

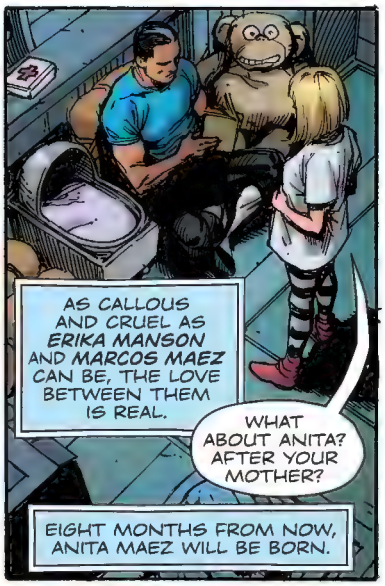
IT IS DECEMBER 25, 1992. REGGIE LONG STANDS OVER THE COLD GROUND IN FRONT OF BYRON LEWIS'S GRAVESTONE AND FINDS WARMTH.
BYRON LEWIS

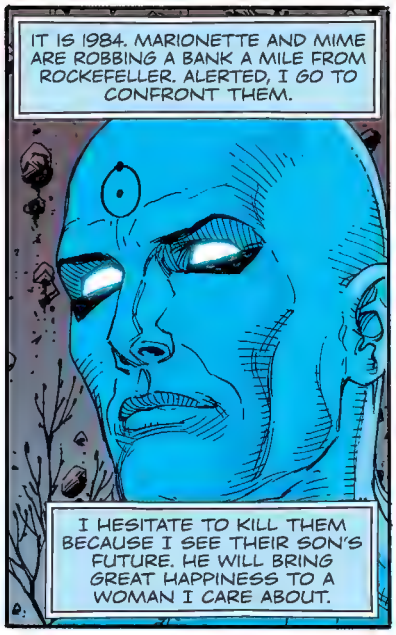
HIS BREATH LEAKS THROUGH THE FABRIC AS HE MUTTERS UNDER THE MASK.
THANK YOU.


IT IS MARCH 13TH, 1993. VEIDT'S HEADQUARTERS HAVE BECOME HIS PRISON.
EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL, A YOUNG ORPHAN NAMED CLEOPATRA PAK STANDS OUTSIDE, OBSESSED WITH THE RISE AND FALL OF OZYMANDIAS.

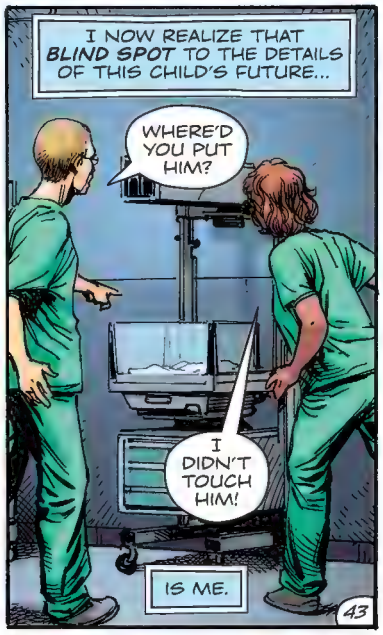
ON HER SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, WITH A FULLY-GROWN BUBASTIS AT HER SIDE, MISS PAK WILL CALL HERSELF NOSTALGIA.
LIFE DOESN'T STOP.

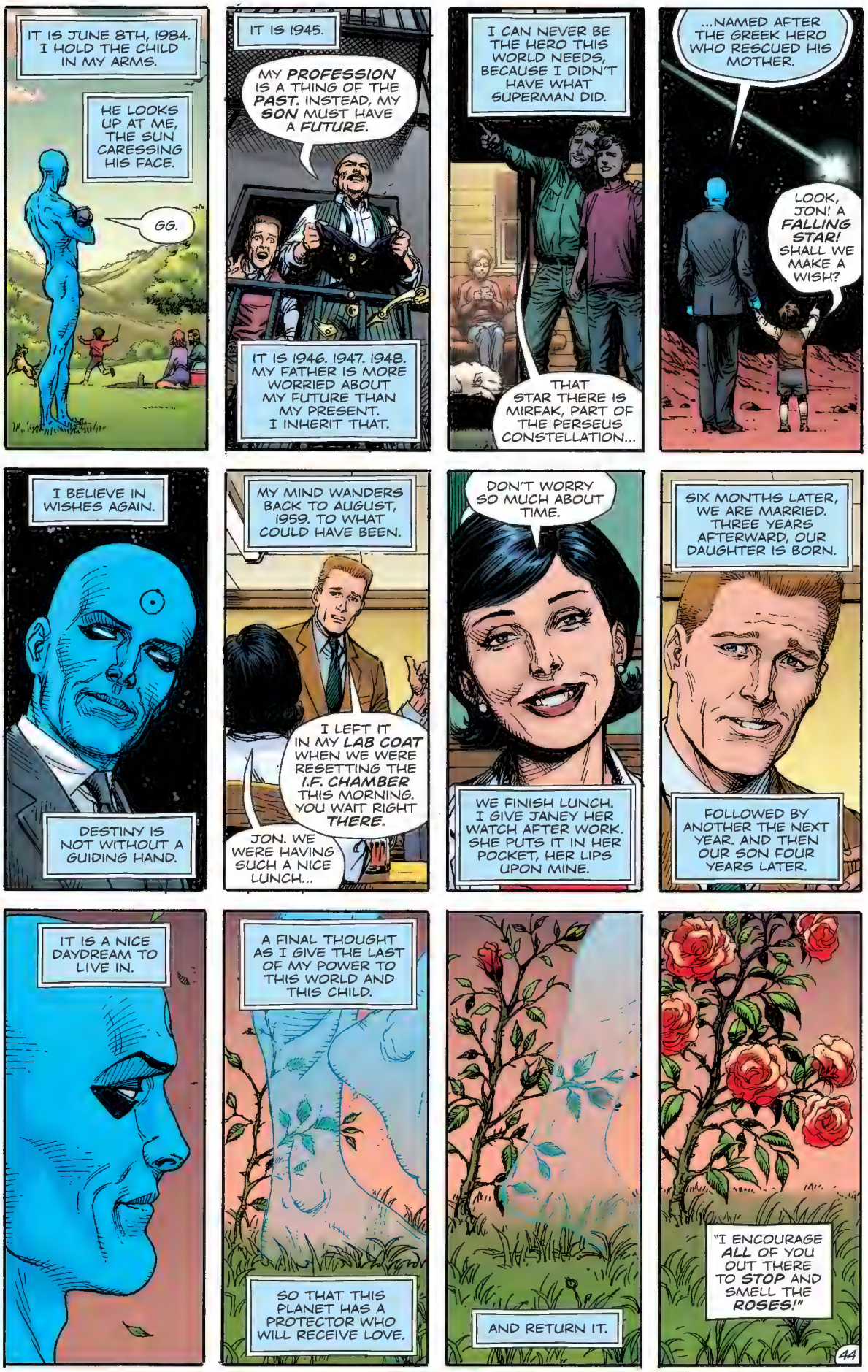
BABY! CARE
BABY! CARE
BUT IT NEEDS LOVE.
BY Dr. N.O.

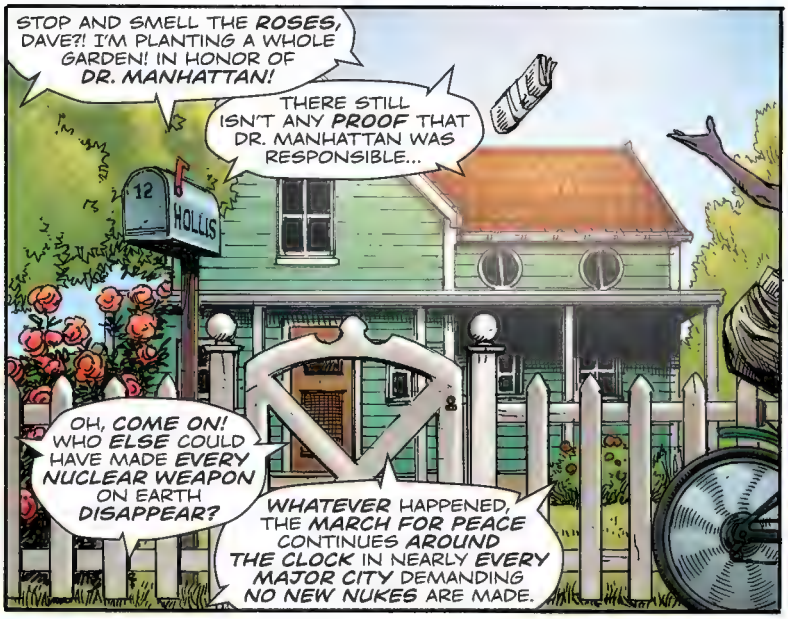

AS CALLOUS AND CRUEL AS ERIKA MANSON AND MARCOS MAEZ CAN BE, THE LOVE BETWEEN THEM IS REAL.
WHAT ABOUT ANITA? AFTER YOUR MOTHER?
EIGHT MONTHS FROM NOW, ANITA MAEZ WILL BE BORN.


IT IS 1984. MARIONETTE AND MIME ARE ROBBING A BANK A MILE FROM ROCKEFELLER. ALERTED, I GO TO CONFRONT THEM.
I HESITATE TO KILL THEM BECAUSE I SEE THEIR SON'S FUTURE. HE WILL BRING GREAT HAPPINESS TO A WOMAN I CARE ABOUT.

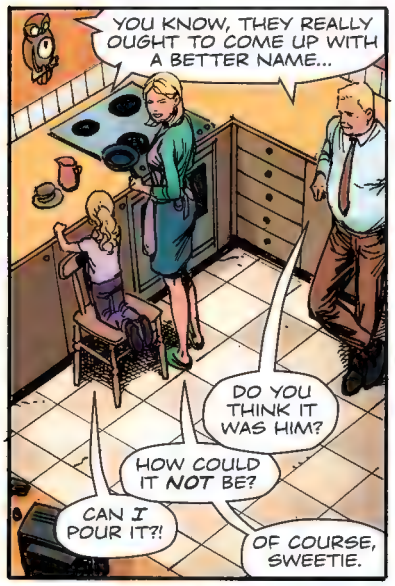
YET THE DETAILS OF HOW AND WHY ARE UNCLEAR TO ME.
BRING HIM BACK! BRING MY BABY BACK TO ME!
WWAAUUU!
I BLAME MY BLURRED VISION ON MY RECENT EXPERIMENTS INVOLVING THE DIALECTICAL UNITY PRINCIPLE AND GIVE IT LITTLE MORE THOUGHT.

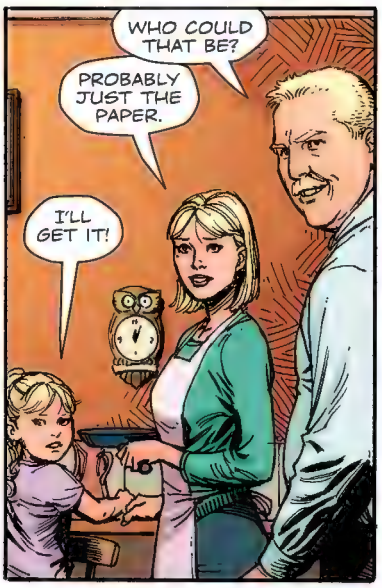

I NOW REALIZE THAT BLIND SPOT TO THE DETAILS OF THIS CHILD'S FUTURE...
WHERE'D YOU PUT HIM?
I DIDN'T TOUCH HIM!
IS ME.

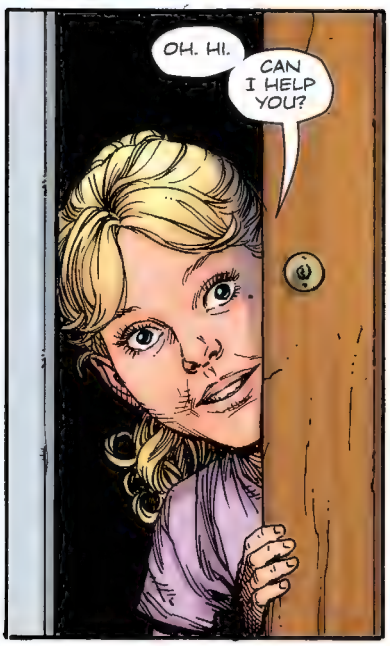

IT IS JUNE 8TH, 1984. I HOLD THE CHILD IN MY ARMS.
HE LOOKS UP AT ME, THE SUN CARESSING HIS FACE.
GG.
IT IS 1945.
MY PROFESSION IS A THING OF THE PAST. INSTEAD, MY SON MUST HAVE A FUTURE.
IT IS 1946. 1947. 1948. MY FATHER IS MORE WORRIED ABOUT MY FUTURE THAN MY PRESENT. I INHERIT THAT.
I CAN NEVER BE THE HERO THIS WORLD NEEDS, BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE WHAT SUPERMAN DID.
THAT STAR THERE IS MIRFAK, PART OF THE PERSEUS CONSTELLATION...
...NAMED AFTER THE GREEK HERO WHO RESCUED HIS MOTHER.
LOOK, JON! A FALLING STAR! SHALL WE MAKE A WISH?
I BELIEVE IN WISHES AGAIN.
DESTINY IS NOT WITHOUT A GUIDING HAND.
MY MIND WANDERS BACK TO AUGUST, 1959. TO WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN.
I LEFT IT IN MY LAB COAT WHEN WE WERE RESETTING THE I.F. CHAMBER THIS MORNING. YOU WAIT RIGHT THERE.
JON. WE WERE HAVING SUCH A NICE LUNCH...
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT TIME.
WE FINISH LUNCH. I GIVE JANEY HER WATCH AFTER WORK. SHE PUTS IT IN HER POCKET, HER LIPS UPON MINE.
SIX MONTHS LATER, WE ARE MARRIED. THREE YEARS AFTERWARD, OUR DAUGHTER IS BORN.
FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER THE NEXT YEAR. AND THEN OUR SON FOUR YEARS LATER.
IT IS A NICE DAYDREAM TO LIVE IN.
A FINAL THOUGHT AS I GIVE THE LAST OF MY POWER TO THIS WORLD AND THIS CHILD.
SO THAT THIS PLANET HAS A PROTECTOR WHO WILL RECEIVE LOVE.
AND RETURN IT.
"I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU OUT THERE TO STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES!"
44

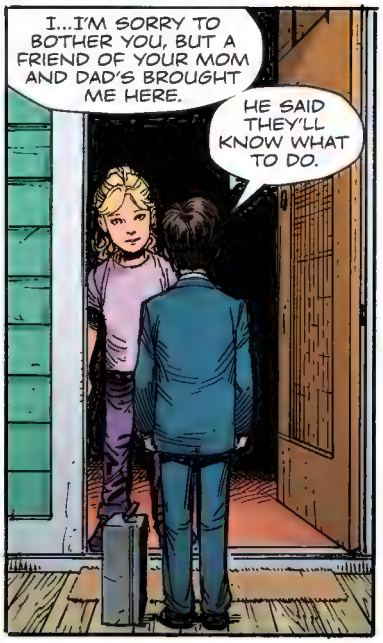

STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES, DAVE?! I'M PLANTING A WHOLE GARDEN! IN HONOR OF DR. MANHATTAN!
THERE STILL ISN'T ANY PROOF THAT DR. MANHATTAN WAS RESPONSIBLE...
12
HOLLIS
OH, COME ON! WHO ELSE COULD HAVE MADE EVERY NUCLEAR WEAPON ON EARTH DISAPPEAR?
WHATEVER HAPPENED, THE MARCH FOR PEACE CONTINUES AROUND THE CLOCK IN NEARLY EVERY MAJOR CITY DEMANDING NO NEW NUKES ARE MADE.

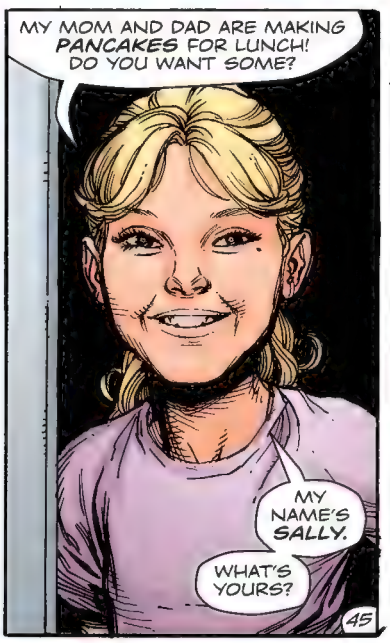
12
3
6
9
THE BULLETIN OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS HAVE RESET THE "DOOMSDAY CLOCK" SO LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY, HUH?


YOU KNOW, THEY REALLY OUGHT TO COME UP WITH A BETTER NAME...
DO YOU THINK IT WAS HIM?
HOW COULD IT NOT BE?
CAN I POUR IT?!
OF COURSE, SWEETIE.


WHO COULD THAT BE?
PROBABLY JUST THE PAPER.
I'LL GET IT!


OH. HI.
CAN I HELP YOU?


I...I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT A FRIEND OF YOUR MOM AND DAD'S BROUGHT ME HERE.
HE SAID THEY'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.


MY MOM AND DAD ARE MAKING PANCAKES FOR LUNCH! DO YOU WANT SOME?
MY NAME'S SALLY.
WHAT'S YOURS?

JON CALLS ME CLARK.

Every child comes with the message that
God is not yet discouraged of man.

—Rabindranath Tagore

CARVER COLMAN

Cover art by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson for
*Doomsday Clock Part 1* and *Part 2* hardcover editions

ANDERSON

DOOMSDAY CLOCK #1 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

DOOMSDAY CLOCK #2 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

DOOMSDAY CLOCK #3 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

DOOMSDAY CLOCK #4 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

DOOMSDAY CLOCK #5 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

DOOMSDAY CLOCK #6 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

*Doomsday Clock* #7 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

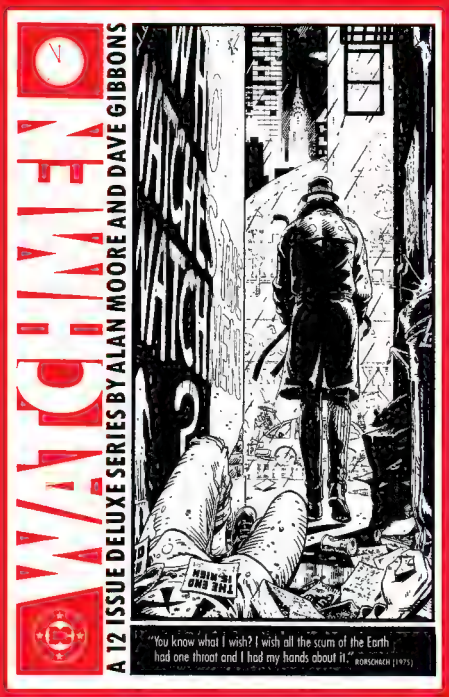
*Doomsday Clock* #8 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

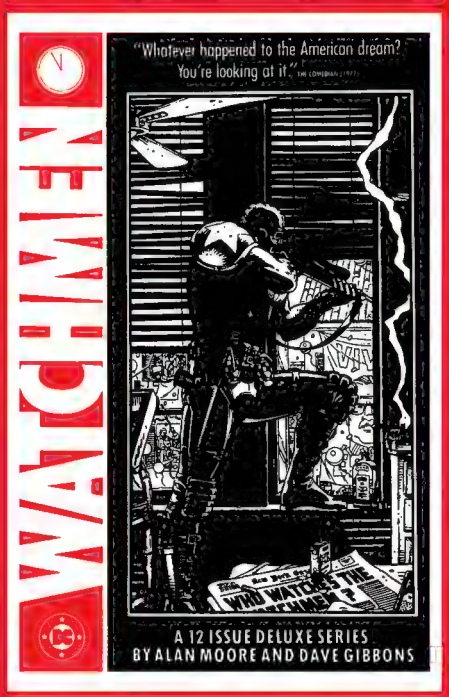
*Doomsday Clock* #9 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

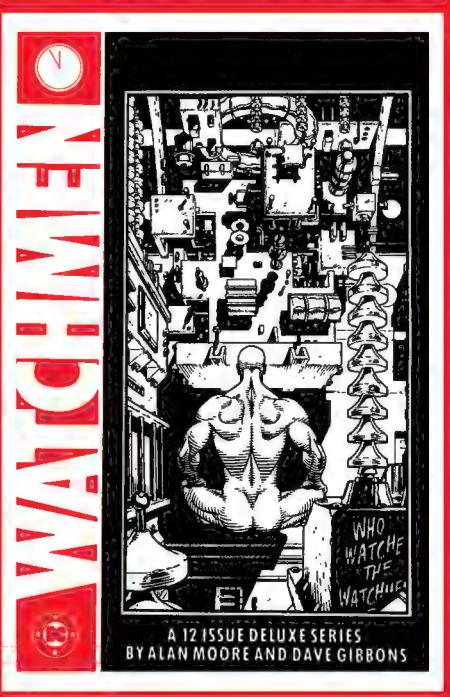
*Doomsday Clock* #10 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

*Doomsday Clock* #11 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson

*Doomsday Clock* #12 variant cover
by Gary Frank and Brad Anderson


WATCHMEN
A 12 ISSUE DELUXE SERIES BY ALAN MOORE AND DAVE GIBBONS
WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN
"You know what I wish? I wish all the scum of the Earth had one throat and I had my hands about it." RORSCHACH (1975)


WATCHMEN
"Whatever happened to the American dream? You're looking at it." THE COMEDIAN (1977)
A 12 ISSUE DELUXE SERIES BY ALAN MOORE AND DAVE GIBBONS




When *Watchmen* #1 hit stands in 1986, it was accompanied by a series of ominous black-and-white advertisements featuring the primary characters (above, art by Dave Gibbons). For *Doomsday Clock*, the series' variant covers were repurposed into a similar campaign as an homage to the original (next 11 pages, art by Gary Frank).

DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"All those generations of struggle,
what purpose did they achieve?"

DR. MANHATTAN

A TWELVE-ISSUE DELUXE SERIES

GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK
BRAD ANDERSON

TM & © DC Comics.

DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"I hope you'll forgive me while I warm up.
I haven't done this in a while."

OZYMANDIAS

A TWELVE-ISSUE DELUXE SERIES

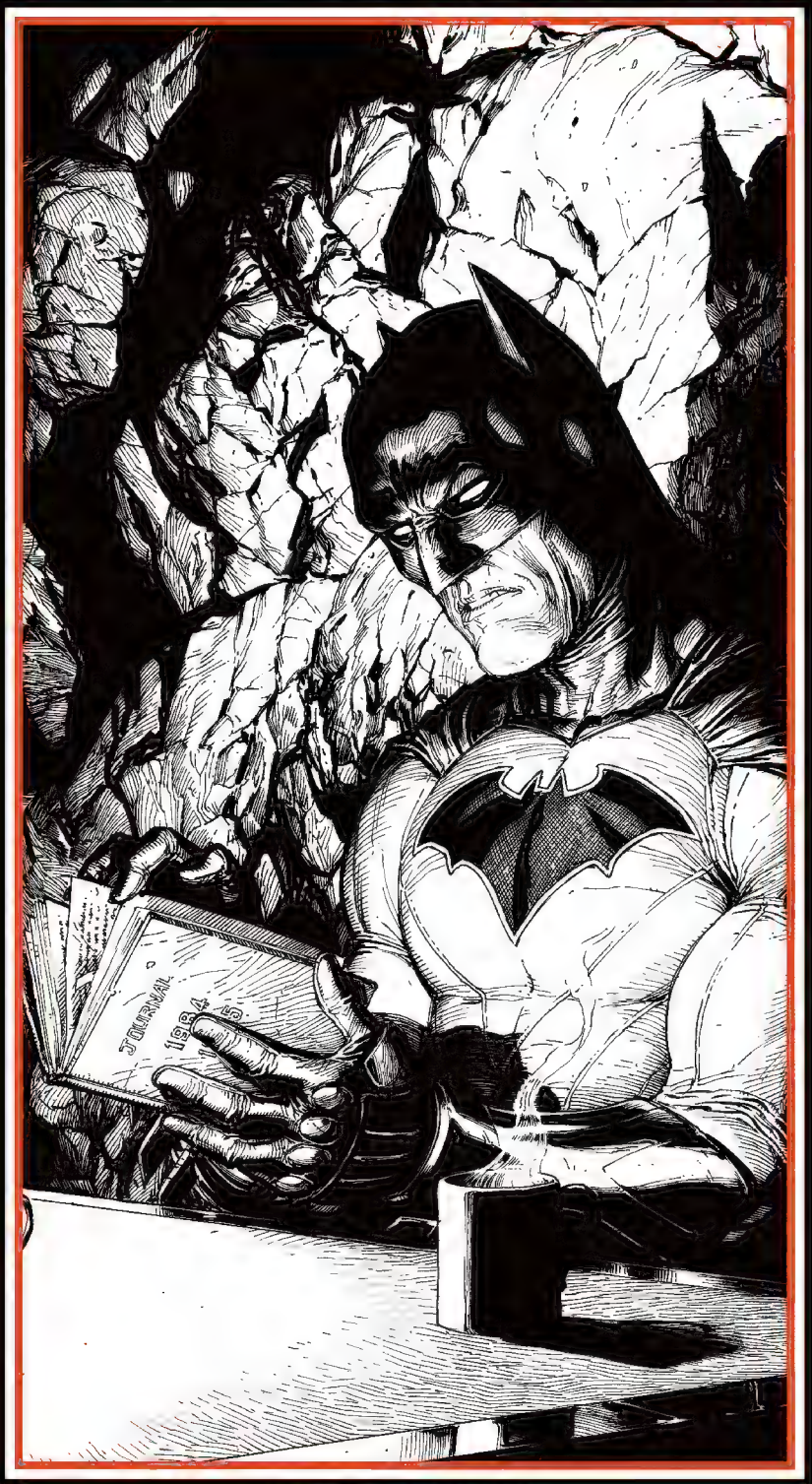
**GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK**
**BRAD ANDERSON**

™ & © DC Comics.

# DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"If reading this now, whether I am alive or dead, you will know truth."

RORSCHACH




A TWELVE-ISSUE DELUXE SERIES

## GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK
## BRAD ANDERSON

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# DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"Go on. Tell me what you really see."

DR. MALCOLM LONG

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# DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"What's so goddamned funny? I don't get it. Somebody explain it to me."

THE COMEDIAN

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# DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"We're all puppets, Laurie.
I'm just a puppet who can see the strings."
DR. MANHATTAN

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DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"There don't seem to be so many laughs around these days."
SILK SPECTRE

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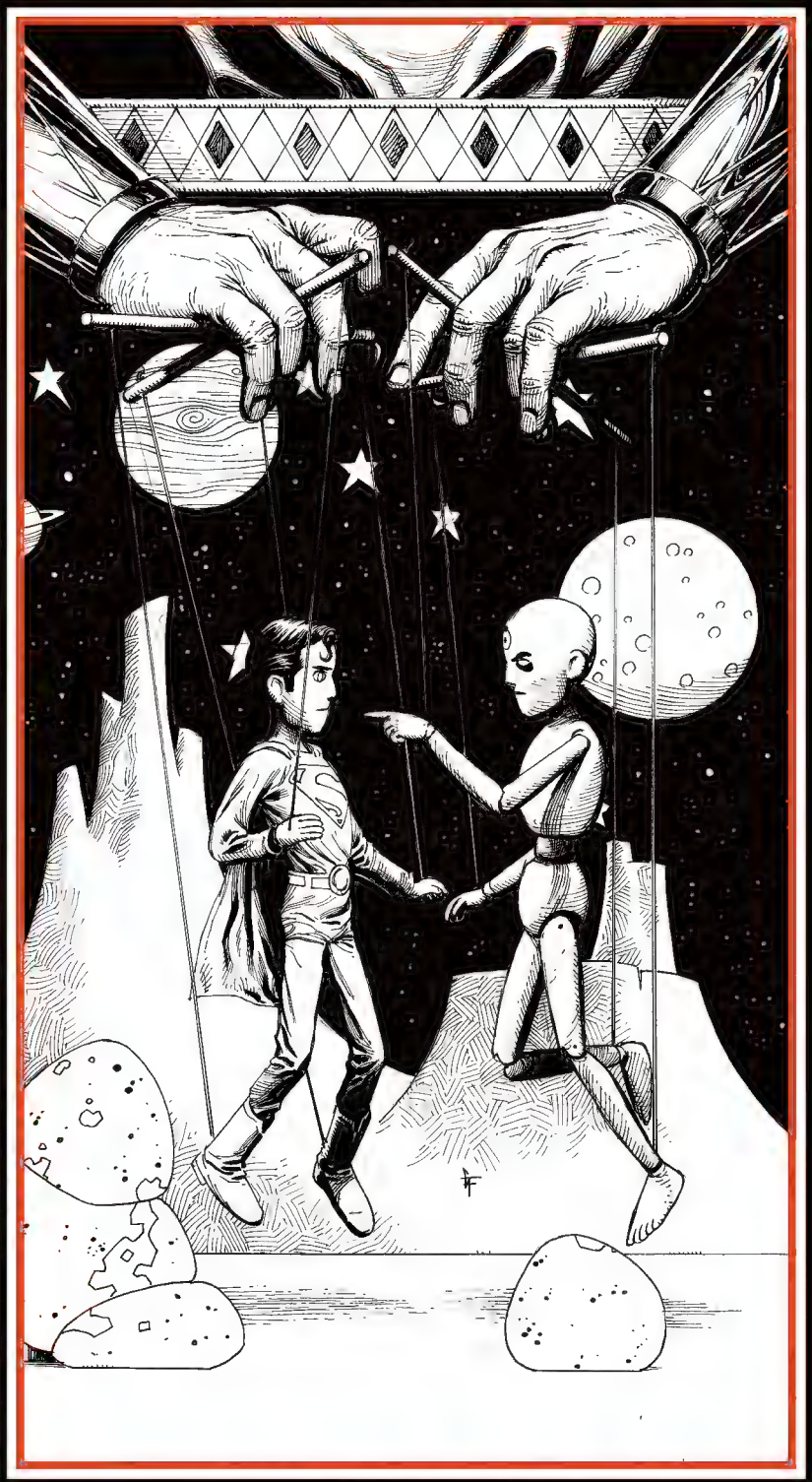
DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"Given correct handling, none of the world's problems are insurmountable. All it takes is a little intelligence."

OZYMANDIAS



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# BRAD ANDERSON

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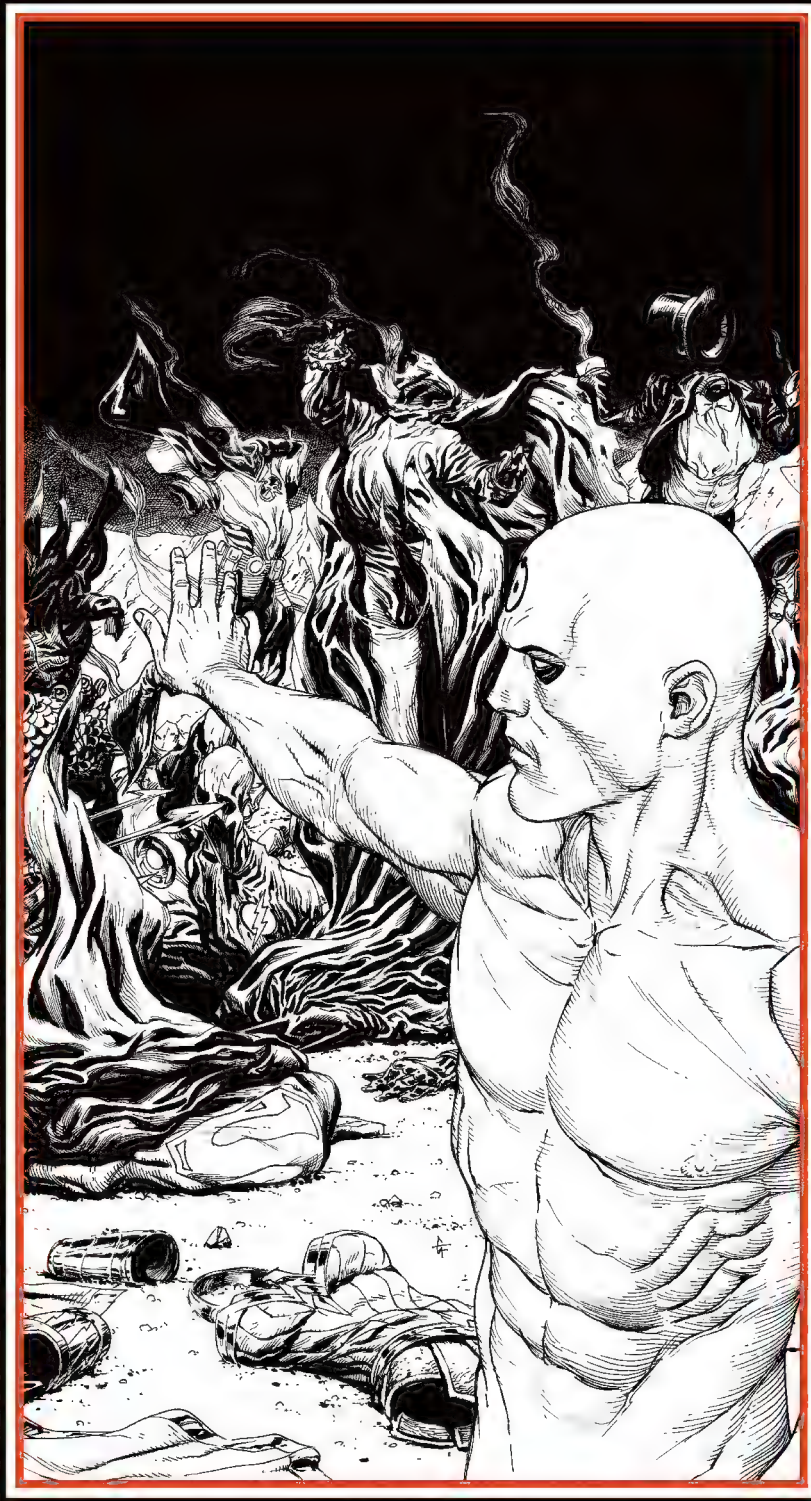
# DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"This world's smartest man means no more to me than does its smartest termite."
DR. MANHATTAN



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## BRAD ANDERSON

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DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"The super-hero has become a part of American life. It's here to stay.
For better, or for worse."

HOLLIS MASON

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**BRAD ANDERSON**

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# DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"Somebody has to do it, don't you see? Somebody has to save the world..."
CAPTAIN METROPOLIS

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## BRAD ANDERSON

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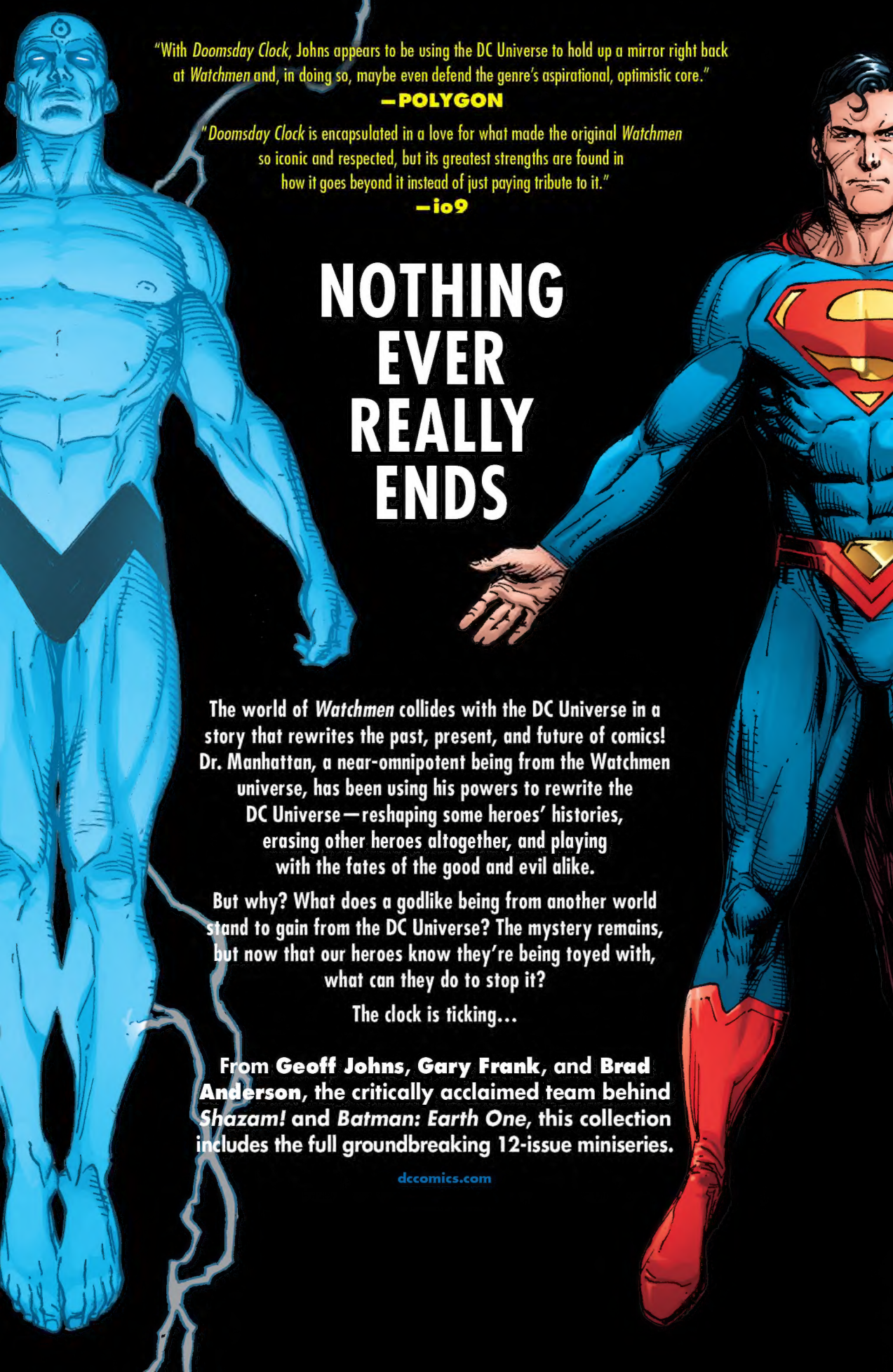
GEOFF JOHNS is an award-winning screenwriter and producer and one of the most successful comic book writers of his time. He has written dozens of *New York Times* bestselling graphic novels, including some of the most recognized and highly acclaimed stories featuring Superman and the Justice League. He has also reinvented lesser-known characters with great commercial and critical success. Under his Mad Ghost Productions banner, Johns is currently in various stages of production on an extensive list of projects in television and film. Among his recent projects, he is writing and producing *Stargirl* for the DC Universe streaming service and writing the anticipated *Green Lantern Corps* feature; he is also producing the second installment of the *Wonder Woman* film franchise, *Wonder Woman 1984*, which he co-wrote with director Patty Jenkins. On the comic book side, he developed the commercial and critical hit *Doomsday Clock*.

GARY FRANK, a native of Bristol, England, began his comics career working on various titles for Marvel UK before entering the American comics scene as the penciller on Marvel's *Incredible Hulk*. Frank then came to DC Comics, where he was the original artist on *Birds of Prey* and pencilled the adventures of *Supergirl*. He has also worked on WildStorm's *Gen13* as well as his creator-owned series *Kin*. Frank, along with writer Geoff Johns, has worked on the bestselling titles *Superman: Brainiac, Superman and the Legion of Super-Heroes, Shazam!*, and the *New York Times* #1 bestseller *Batman: Earth One*, as well as the landmark issue *DC Universe: Rebirth #1*.

BRAD ANDERSON, a native of Kenora, Ontario, Canada, began his comics career after attending the Kubert School in 1996. Shortly after returning to Canada, he began painting comics at Digital Chameleon, where he cut his teeth on some of the top characters in the business. After a stint as art director, he left to begin working independently on Dark Horse's *Star Wars: Legacy*, as well as DC's *Catwoman* and Marvel's *Ultimate Hawkeye*. His recent notable works include *Justice League, The Dark Knight III: The Master Race* (with Frank Miller), and *Doomsday Clock*.


"With *Doomsday Clock*, Johns appears to be using the DC Universe to hold up a mirror right back at *Watchmen* and, in doing so, maybe even defend the genre's aspirational, optimistic core."
—POLYGON
"*Doomsday Clock* is encapsulated in a love for what made the original *Watchmen* so iconic and respected, but its greatest strengths are found in how it goes beyond it instead of just paying tribute to it."
—io9
NOTHING EVER REALLY ENDS
The world of *Watchmen* collides with the DC Universe in a story that rewrites the past, present, and future of comics! Dr. Manhattan, a near-omnipotent being from the Watchmen universe, has been using his powers to rewrite the DC Universe—reshaping some heroes' histories, erasing other heroes altogether, and playing with the fates of the good and evil alike.
But why? What does a godlike being from another world stand to gain from the DC Universe? The mystery remains, but now that our heroes know they're being toyed with, what can they do to stop it?
The clock is ticking...
From **Geoff Johns**, **Gary Frank**, and **Brad Anderson**, the critically acclaimed team behind ***Shazam!*** and ***Batman: Earth One***, this collection includes the full groundbreaking 12-issue miniseries.
dccomics.com

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